

The Assembly met at 13:30.

Prayers

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

PRESENTING PETITIONS

Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a petition signed by the citizens of Saskatchewan concerning the deplorable condition of Highway 58 between Chaplin and Shamrock. And the prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take immediate action and make necessary repairs to Highway 58 in order to avoid serious injury and property damage.

And this petition is signed by individuals all from the community of Shamrock.

I so present.

Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise again on behalf of residents of my constituency concerned with the state of the hospital facility in Swift Current. The prayer of their petition reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the provincial government to commit its share of funding for a new regional hospital in Swift Current.

And as in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, all of the petitioners today are from the city of Swift Current.

I so present.

Mr. Brkich: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a petition here dealing with crop insurance:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary steps to have Saskatchewan Crop Insurance reassess the grasshopper spray penalty assessed to farmers in 2002; and further to that, government review the definition of viable farming practices as outlined in present Saskatchewan Crop Insurance policy.

And as in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Signed by the good citizens from Hanley.

I so present.

Mr. Wiberg: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a petition this afternoon from people in my constituency who are very concerned about possible reductions of access to Crown land for recreation and tourism in Saskatchewan. And the petition reads as follows, Mr. Speaker:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to take the necessary action to ensure that Crown lands and existing trails stay open for recreational and tourism purposes.

And as in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

And, Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by the good people from Meath Park and Weirdale.

I so present.

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a petition from citizens concerned about adequate and reasonably priced telephone service. The prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to modify the exorbitant rates of telephone hookup to these cabins and provide reliable cellular telephone coverage.

And as in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Signed by the citizens from Edmonton, Martensville, Shellbrook, and Saskatoon.

I so present.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND QUESTIONS

Mr. Wiberg: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that I shall on day no. 7 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister of the Environment: what is your department's intention for moving elk north of Prince Albert for the year 2003?

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. Hillson: — It is my pleasure to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly, David Karwacki, Leader of the Saskatchewan Liberal Party who is seated in the east gallery, and he is accompanied today by Ian Burgess, communications director for the Liberal Party. Thank you.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Hermanson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to introduce to the members of the Assembly today, Hazel Lorenz sitting in your gallery. Hazel is the force behind our newly elected MLA (Member of the Legislative Assembly) in the Battleford-Cut Knife constituency. And we know behind every successful elected member is someone who is a strong supporter and we want to express our appreciation to Hazel for attending this session. Thank you.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Ms. Hamilton: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my great pleasure to introduce to you and through you to all my colleagues in the Assembly, 30 grade 5 students seated in the west gallery. The students come from W.S Hawrylak School in

the constituency of Regina Wascana Plains.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I have nothing but good memories of going to visit Hawrylak School. I'm always warmly greeted. I've been there for some family fun days and a number of years ago I was even able to be dunked in a dunk tank.

The community there worked hard for the expansion of their facility so they would have some greater gym space in times and I really appreciate the support of all of the young people in the community.

They are accompanied today by Brenda Martin, their teacher, and two parent chaperones, Susan Stasiuk and Leanne Leibham. And I'm looking forward to being able to meet with them and have a picture taken and join them for refreshments and any questions they have in room 218.

I ask all members to join with me in a warm welcome for the students from W.S. Hawrylak School.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to the rest of the members I'd like to introduce Gerry Hertz, who's sitting in your gallery. Gerry resides around the Edenvold community and is a hard worker in the community, dropped off a couple of tickets for a fundraiser coming up. Always looking for extra dollars to put on different events and other play . . . this one is for playground material in Edenvold.

I'd like the rest of the guests, members to welcome Gerry.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce to you and through you three members from SUMA (Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association) here today — Jeff Hryhoriw, Merv Norton, and Andrew Rathwell, and ask all the members to welcome them here today.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Goulet: — Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize some members, a couple of people in the gallery. We have of course former employees of mine when I was the minister of Northern Affairs. We have Don McKay, who's now working in the mining industry. And as well we have Dale Robison who continues to work in the building.

And as well, over on the gallery opposite, Mr. Speaker, we also have my niece, Sasha, and she's come in from Saskatoon to give us a special visit, as well as my wife, Linda.

All members, please welcome.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd want to welcome all of our guests who are in the gallery today and to give a particular welcome to Andy Iwanchuk's family. And I know I won't be able to say Andy Iwanchuk much longer in

this Assembly. Within a few hours he will be the — or a few minutes — he will be the member from Fairview.

But I do want to welcome, I'm sure on Andy's behalf and on all of our behalf, a number of those from Andy's family who can be here today: Tasha and Alecia, Andy's two daughters, welcome; Parker Anderson, and Andy's very close partner and friend, Angela Anderson, welcome; Andy's aunt and uncle, Ann and Orest Woytiuk, I think from North Battleford if I'm not mistaken; and a very special welcome to Andy's mother, Sandra Iwanchuk from North Battleford. Welcome to you all.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Serby: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Seated in your gallery this afternoon are two individuals who are here from Brazil who are here talking about the ethanol industry. And their names are Mr. Carlos Hiese and Mr. Angelos Santos. And their accompanied today by Lionel Labelle. And they're seated in your gallery, Mr. Speaker.

I'd invite members of the House to recognize them and to welcome them to Saskatchewan, to what they said to me is the centre of the ethanol in the world today, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

Welcome to New Members of the Legislative Assembly

Ms. Jones: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and welcome back. It's a fact of our profession, Mr. Speaker, that from time to time we lose members. On the other hand, it's always encouraging to see that new, worthy citizens are willing to step forward in the service of the people of Saskatchewan.

I'm pleased therefore to make the first member's statement of this new session to welcome our new MLAs — the members for Saskatoon Fairview and the member for Battleford-Cut Knife. Both have big shoes to fill; both, we are confident, will be able to do so.

I know all current members will join me in welcoming them and helping them in any way possible until they learn the ropes.

Of course on this side we're delighted to see the member from Fairview. He is a former union leader and we will put his negotiating and consensus building skills to good use. After all he built pretty good consensus in the by-election, doubling the votes of both of his opponents. The opposition's win-Saskatoon strategy obviously needs some fine tuning.

Regardless of political stripe, Mr. Speaker, we're all colleagues in the service of Her Majesty. And in the spirit of collegiality we welcome the member from Battleford-Cut Knife. Now that the tough decision is over, or tough election is over, he will of course have time to review the Sask Party policy manual. Interesting reading, I'd predict.

Welcome, and we look forward to the active involvement of both members.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Pending War in the Middle East

Mr. Hermanson: — Mr. Speaker, today the world stands on the precipice of another major war in the Middle East — a war that seems inevitable. As we speak, 280,000 British and American men and women are preparing to risk their lives to defend the peace and freedom that we enjoy each and every day in our province, freedoms that are the very foundation of this Legislative Assembly and of our society.

While we can debate the merits of the decision to go to war in the Persian Gulf against a brutal dictator who harbours terrorists and supports their murderous actions, we cannot but honour the courage of those many thousands of young soldiers who stand ready for battle in defence of their countries and ours.

There is speculation that as early as tonight or tomorrow there could be families in the United States and Britain who might be mourning the loss of a loved one, a son or daughter, a father or mother, who has made the ultimate sacrifice to defend the freedom that we so often take for granted. We pray that God's protection will be upon these brave young soldiers and those who lead them. May they serve their nations with honour and then come home safely with the threat of terrorism reduced.

Mr. Speaker, I know that all members also pray that the human carnage will be minimal and that innocent lives will be spared. If there is war, we pray it will be quickly replaced by peace. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Saskatchewan Employment Statistics

Mr. Yates: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Saskatchewan's economy continues to grow and job numbers continue to climb. Recent StatsCanada figures show that 475,500 people were working in the province last month — an increase of 10,600 over February 2002. This marks the 10th consecutive month that jobs have increased and it is the second highest February on record.

Once again these job numbers demonstrate a resilient and diverse Saskatchewan economy. Our resource industry is particularly strong and recent tax and royalty changes have had an impact upon it with record drilling, record land sales, and more jobs over the past several months.

Resource industries such as oil, gas, mining, and forestry recorded a gain of 1,200 jobs compared to February of last year. As well, non-agricultural employment increased by 12,700 while youth employment increased in the province by 6,200.

February 2002, Mr. Speaker, was a very good month. We had the third lowest unemployment rate in Canada, well below the national average of 8 per cent. The solid growth that we've seen over the last 10 months is proof positive that Saskatchewan's future is exciting, promising, and wide open.

(13:45)

Mr. Speaker, the members opposite have many hollow slogans; but, Mr. Speaker, the Calvert government has a plan, and it is working. It is . . .

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Order. Order, please. Order. Order. I would like to advise the member for Regina Dewdney that his last statement was out of order, referring to a member by a name. The member is out of order and ought not to do that again.

Junior Achievement Awards

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I was fortunate to attend the Northern Saskatchewan Junior Achievement Business Hall of Fame 2003 awards on March 15. The evening was to recognize the achievements of 15 groups of students from Saskatoon, North Battleford, and Prince Albert, as well as the contribution of the volunteers in the company program. Sixteen awards were given to distinguished individuals and groups for their efforts in meeting an array of criteria.

The mission statement for Junior Achievement is to inspire and educate young Canadians to value free enterprise and understand business and economics and develop in entrepreneurial and leadership skills.

The evening also recognized a strong promoter and supporter of the Junior Achievement company program. Ms. Shirley Ryan was honoured as the 2002-2003 inductee in the Business Hall of Fame. Ms. Ryan is the executive director of the North Saskatchewan Business Association and has contributed a great deal to the business community as well as the Junior Achievement program.

I would like to congratulate not only the award winners from the Junior Achievement program, but all those who participated in the program — students, volunteers, and sponsors. You are all winners just by taking part in such an educational activity.

I would also like to congratulate Ms. Shirley Ryan for being acknowledged for her contributions as a dedicated supporter by her induction into the Business Hall of Fame.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Z99 Radiothon

Mr. Trew: — Mr. Speaker, Z is the last letter in the English alphabet, the first in radio. Z99's CC, Lorie, and Buzz were in the zone for their 16th annual 36-hour radiothon, March 13 and 14.

After a zippy start from zero, great zeal was demonstrated by all. No zombies here, Mr. Speaker. The Z's trio were zestful. Some even thought they were like Zeus. The General Hospital neonatal intensive care unit is rumoured to have been quoted, "Zounds." The more than \$160,111 will be used not for zircons but for a neonatal X-ray unit, three infant breathing machines, and an incubator.

Zany? No. Was zymurgy involved? Maybe. Was the zodiac

aligned? Definitely. CC, Lori and Buzz, Z99, and the listening audience reached their zenith by zero hour.

Mr. Speaker, it has been my honour to recognize these heroes for some years now. With joy and pride I say to all, but especially to Z99's CC, Lori and Buzz, thank you and very well done this year.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Rural Women's Achievement Awards

Ms. Julé: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on March 8, International Women's Day, I had the privilege of attending a gala evening in Humboldt to celebrate rural women's achievements. And I might add that one of the members from across the way was there too, and I think it's Moose Jaw Wakamow. So I was really happy to see her attend this evening also.

The evening was sponsored by the Partners for Rural Family Support, and Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan, Lynda Haverstock, was on hand to present the awards.

A total of 28 women were nominated in six different categories. The Arts and Culture award went to Maxine Moore, a well-known Humboldt musician nominated for her outstanding contribution to music in Humboldt and district for over 20 years.

The award for Women in Sports went to Valerie Weseen who in conjunction with her husband, Wade, established a basketball program in Lake Lenore School that is second to none in the province.

The Education award went to Majella Gareau for her tireless and valuable work in the school system. She is presently the director of student services for the Wakaw School Division.

In the Business category, Val McNally of Humboldt was chosen as the successful nominee. Val owns and operates Sixth Avenue Stylists. As well, she is an enthusiastic volunteer in the community of Humboldt.

The Volunteer award went to Ruth Hiebert. Ruth has been active on many boards and organizations over the years. She was a founding member of the local Canadian Diabetes Association.

And Judy Ulrich was selected to receive the Agriculture award. Judy and her husband Paul operate a mixed farming operation and Judy acts as a director involved in research and pork production.

I'd like to extend my congratulations to all nominees and award winners. We appreciate your contributions.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Reality Television

Mr. Van Mulligen: — Mr. Speaker, the most popular

television shows these days seem to be what are called reality TV: *Survivor*, numbers one through infinity; *Joe Millionaire* about a guy who's neither a millionaire nor a Joe; *Bachelorette* about which the less said the better. The only common thread to these shows is that they involve a contest in which someone wins a prize after passing a series of tests such as speaking a complete English sentence or wearing a wet swimsuit.

I suggest, Mr. Speaker, to the so-called grassroots party opposite, that if they really want to be popular with the folk they should create their own reality TV show and they should call it Joe Candidate.

The show, like the party, would be simple. It would feature a secret group called the executive council which would interview various Joes or Grants who want to be Sask Party candidates. They would be given quizzes on Alberta and Ireland, not Saskatchewan. They would have to explain in 20 words or less how they would increase services while lowering taxes. And they would have to be cute.

All these shows have a trick, Mr. Speaker. For Joe Candidate the trick of course would be that none of the candidates would qualify. All would be rejected because, like Grant Schmidt, they would be unworthy for reasons kept secret until the last minute.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

ORAL QUESTIONS

Keeping Young People in Saskatchewan

Mr. Hermanson: — Mr. Speaker, thank goodness for the choir from Swift Current. At least there was something worth listening to yesterday. There sure wasn't anything in the Speech from the Throne.

But, Mr. Speaker, as I listened to those very, very talented young people, I couldn't help but wonder how many of them are planning on staying in Saskatchewan and what is this government, this NDP government, doing to help keep them in our province. And unfortunately the answer is again, absolutely nothing.

Mr. Speaker, under the NDP Saskatchewan now has suffered through 16 consecutive quarters of population loss — our young people leaving Saskatchewan.

And, Mr. Speaker, in yesterday's Speech from the Throne, there was absolutely nothing that would encourage these young people to stay in our wonderful province.

Mr. Speaker, why is the NDP content to drive good people out of our province?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, listening to the Leader of the Opposition, I wish the choir were back here today.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, I want to assure the Leader of the Opposition, I had some opportunity yesterday to speak with a number of the members of that wonderful choir that were here. And I want to tell the Leader of the Opposition that many of those young people are planning a great future in Saskatchewan . . .

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — . . . particularly . . . particularly, Mr. Speaker, in their region of this great province where we're seeing some phenomenal economic development and growth. Mr. Speaker, we talked yesterday in the Throne Speech about expanding this economy — expanding an economy that excludes no one, expanding an economy based on what we're seeing: record job growth, Mr. Speaker, record job growth in the last 10 months, record growth in the oil and gas industry, which will be particularly important in the Swift Current region. And, Mr. Speaker, I tell you this: we have only just begun.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hermanson: — Mr. Speaker, I would say to the Premier, the young people that tell me they want to stay in Saskatchewan say they'll do so if we win the next election.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hermanson: — Now, Mr. Speaker, that's because the Saskatchewan Party has a plan to grow our province and the NDP (New Democratic Party) doesn't like it much because we found out they don't believe in growing Saskatchewan. The NDP member for Regina Wascana Plains has said that it's statistically unattainable to grow Saskatchewan by 100,000 in 10 years. And she nods her head today in agreement.

Mr. Speaker, that is the average rate of growth for Canada. So that member and her government is saying Saskatchewan cannot even be average. We don't accept that, Mr. Speaker. The NDP may believe that Saskatchewan can't grow, but the Saskatchewan Party believes that we can grow and we have a plan to do that.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hermanson: — Mr. Speaker, we believe in Saskatchewan; why doesn't the NDP?

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Let me correct what the Leader of the Opposition just offered to the House. He suggests that they have a plan. No, Mr. Speaker, they have a slogan. They have a slogan with very little plan behind it, at least very little plan that they are willing to expose.

Now let me tell you, Mr. Speaker . . . let me tell you, Mr. Speaker, what a vision and a plan can accomplish — a great vision, and a hardworking plan. Let me tell you what it can accomplish. It can accomplish the kind of headline we see in January of this year, 2003, where right here in Saskatchewan the headline says, "More youth finding jobs."

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — And the article reports the fact, the fact youth employment — get this, Mr. Speaker — youth employment is at a 10-year high in Saskatchewan. That's the result, Mr. Speaker, of a vision and a plan that is balanced and sustainable. It is not the result of a bunch of sloganeering and negativism that we hear from across the way.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hermanson: — Mr. Speaker, the idea of the NDP government to create jobs for young people is for them to get a government job. All others need not apply.

Mr. Speaker, the NDP government has made it perfectly clear through their Throne Speech that they've run out of gas. They have no new ideas; they have no vision; there's no leadership, Mr. Speaker.

The NDP is content to stand by and do nothing while thousands of people, primarily young people, leave this province. Mr. Speaker, they just stand there and they wave goodbye. That's not good enough.

Yesterday's Speech from the Throne was an admission of failure by the NDP. They aren't even trying any more. They've given up; they've thrown in the towel.

Mr. Speaker, last . . . in the last year Saskatchewan suffered its worst year of out-migration in a decade, and most of those people were young people. Why was there nothing in yesterday's Speech from the Throne to encourage young people to stay in Saskatchewan?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — The Leader of the Opposition says this is a government that's out of gas. Mr. Speaker, oil and gas drilling up by 68 per cent.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — This is not a government that's out of gas; this is not a province out of gas. This is a province full of energy looking forward to its future, Mr. Speaker.

And let me just say this, let me just say this: sloganeering won't get us there; negativism won't get us there; empty promises and unsustainable promises won't get us there. What'll get us there is a solid plan, and a government committed to that plan, working with the people and communities of Saskatchewan. That's what's going to get us there, Mr. Speaker — not the kind of rhetoric we're hearing from across the way.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Government Participation in Potato Industry

Mr. Hermanson: — Mr. Speaker, I happen to live in a riding where they've started drilling for gas. And you know what? The licence plates of the vehicles are Alberta plates. The people that work for the companies live in Medicine Hat. They may have been born in Saskatchewan. They live in Medicine Hat; they're paying their taxes in Medicine Hat. Those are the facts.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan people are asking two questions. The first one's, when is the election? And I would ask the Premier to answer that soon. But they're also saying, why is it that a minister who loses \$28 million for the taxpayers of this province, has to admit that he misled the people of the province, why isn't he held accountable? Why isn't this minister fired?

Mr. Speaker, that minister is still in cabinet and people are saying that they can't believe that this is the best the NDP has to offer. They can't believe the Premier said this is one of his best ministers and that minister will stay in his caucus.

(14:00)

Mr. Speaker, the minister is not out one single dime, but the taxpayers of Saskatchewan are out \$28 million. So to the Premier I ask, why did he not fire the minister who squandered \$28 million and then tried to cover it up?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — The Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and Aboriginal Affairs has stood in this House as recently as yesterday and made apology for mistakes that were made in the late 1990s.

Mr. Speaker, if the opposition would ever care to listen to an answer in this House, one might be able to answer the question.

The Speaker: — Order, please. Order. Order.

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, the minister has apologized but I will not apologize to that Leader of the Opposition or that party for keeping the minister, the member from Prince Albert Northcote, in the cabinet of the Government of Saskatchewan.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — And I will tell you why; I will tell you why, Mr. Speaker. This is a member that brings to this cabinet tremendous experience. This is the minister that served as minister of Industry and Resources, as we saw job numbers climb in this province. This is the minister who in Industry and Resources has seen the phenomenal growth in the oil and gas industry. This is a minister who brings to the cabinet table the voice and concern of Prince Albert and northern Saskatchewan.

Now I want to say to the Leader of the Opposition, why doesn't he stand up and apologize for his performance, his party's performance in government for \$15 billion? Let's hear an apology for that.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There's more evidence out today of how bad this rotten potato deal really was in the province. Former NDP minister Carol Teichrob says she warned the NDP — warned the former premier, warned current cabinet ministers — about how rotten this deal was back in '97, but they didn't listen. She says the Sask Water Board was saying, keep away from this deal, but it went forward anyway, Mr. Speaker.

So who was driving it, Mr. Speaker? Who was driving this deal? Well the Sask Water president in *The StarPhoenix* article this morning says, and I quote:

Eldon Lautermilch (and I'm quoting, Eldon Lautermilch) was a driving force in the process.

He was the driving force, Mr. Speaker, in a deal that cost taxpayers \$28 million and resulted in a six-year cover-up that the Premier has already admitted to.

Mr. Speaker, to the Premier, the question is this: why is that minister still in his cabinet?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Order. Order.

Hon. Mr. Serby: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The member from Swift Current asked the question about who's driving the deal in growing the potato industry in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, is the question he asked. And I say to the member opposite, demonstrate for me today that the industry in that part of the province isn't progressive. Demonstrate for me today, Mr. Speaker, that the potato industry in the Lucky Lake area of the province, Mr. Speaker, isn't growing, Mr. Speaker.

Let's take a look at it, Mr. Speaker. We have a \$250 million . . .

The Speaker: — Order, please. Order. Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Serby: — Mr. Speaker, when he asked a question about who's driving economic development in this province — a good question that the member asks — the people who drive economic development, Mr. Speaker, in the province today are on this side of the House, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Serby: — And driving economic development in the gas and the oil, Mr. Speaker. People who are driving in the agricultural area with ethanol development, Mr. Speaker, is who's driving the economy. Those people today in the livestock area, Mr. Speaker, are driving the economy.

And the response to the member opposite, when he asks the question who's driving the economy in Saskatchewan: this government is driving the economy, Mr. Speaker, in this province and we're going to continue to drive it because we're going to continue to be the government on this side, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Wall: — First it was the minister responsible for CIC (Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan) and now it's the Deputy Premier of the province that characterizes the SPUDCO (Saskatchewan Potato Utility Development Company) debacle as a success.

So, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of taxpayers, if losing 28 million of their hard-earned dollars and then lying to the people of the

province about it for six years, if that's an NDP success, then we say, bring on the election before they have a failure, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, the deputy minister to the Premier's own report on this scandal recently indicated that the whole potato strategy hinged on getting a french-fry plant as its anchor. But here's the problem, Mr. Speaker. Sask Water sent their potatoes to be tested and they fried up black — and apparently there's not a great market for black french fries, Mr. Speaker. But that was in 1997. Plenty of time for the government to pull back to save the taxpayers' money, but they didn't do that.

So, Mr. Speaker, the question is to the government opposite: would the minister who thought cornering the black french-fry market was a good idea please explain that to the Assembly?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Serby: — Well, Mr. Speaker, if the party opposite, Mr. Speaker, had any idea or any understanding of how the agricultural industry worked, they would have paid attention to the report that was provided, Mr. Speaker, on why in fact potatoes may go black in a given year. They might know that, Mr. Speaker, if they knew. And because of a particular growing season that we had in 1997, Mr. Speaker, as the member opposite would know . . .

The Speaker: — Order, please. Order.

Hon. Mr. Serby: — Mr. Speaker, if the member opposite would have read the report fully the member opposite would have seen, as was provided by the processor who was prepared to process the potatoes in Saskatchewan, he said, Mr. Speaker, that the particular growing season of that given year, the reasons why those potatoes couldn't be used, Mr. Speaker, for the french-fry plant — because of the large sugar content that they had which was respectful, Mr. Speaker, only to the fact of what the weather conditions were in the province. Exactly what they say in the report.

And I say to the member opposite, had you read the report, you would see, Mr. Speaker, today why in fact the potatoes were black. Now we grow potatoes, Mr. Speaker, for other parts of Canada, Mr. . . .

The Speaker: — The member's time has elapsed.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Wall: — Well, Mr. Speaker, with answers like that the Deputy Premier and the NDP are going to be facing a long, long summer of mosquitoes and black fries, Mr. Speaker.

The Deputy Premier cites a report that talks about how these french fries simply don't . . . the potatoes don't make good french fries because they fry up black. And he says, well if the opposition would have read that . . . The question, Mr. Speaker, the question is: why didn't the cabinet read that report and put a stop to . . .

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Wall: — That's the question. So again, Mr. Speaker, the report was clear. The company in question said they didn't have an interest in building a plant here because the fries fried up black. And the question to the minister is this: why in the world did the NDP proceed with the plan, lose \$28 million in the bargain, and then cover it up when they had this information all along?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Serby: — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, the member from Swift Current makes a joke, makes a joke, Mr. Speaker, about the value of the industry today in the Lucky Lake area. Makes a joke of that, Mr. Speaker.

Now I have correspondence, Mr. Speaker, here, I have correspondence here, Mr. Speaker, from people who are actually involved in growing potatoes in that part of the province, Mr. Speaker. And what are people saying who are growing potatoes in that side of the province, Mr. Speaker?

Well one of the farmers from there says, Mr. Speaker, that in the future if we in fact could provide additional irrigation and storage for potatoes, they would grow an additional 400 acres, Mr. Speaker, in that area — which says, Mr. Speaker, today that those sheds and that irrigation system are providing a tremendous opportunity for that side of the province.

And what does the member from Swift Current do? He stands up and jokes about an industry, Mr. Speaker, that's making a difference on that side of the province. And he tries to pretend, Mr. Speaker, that he knows something about potatoes. And he knows very little about potatoes, Mr. Speaker, because on that side of the House they know very little about agriculture, Mr. Speaker, never mind . . .

Mr. Wall: — Well, Mr. Speaker, the opposition doesn't need to try to make a joke out of this government. They're very competent in doing that themselves.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Wall: — Very competent in doing that themselves.

Mr. Speaker, here's how much sense this potato strategy made. In order to fulfill their obligations to the company testing the french fry, testing the potatoes, the government wound up having to buy about a million pounds of American potatoes — because, of course, the ones from Saskatchewan were frying up black.

They used Saskatchewan taxpayers' dollars to do that, presumably. And the question to the Deputy Premier or the minister — who's stopped answering any questions at all in this — the question is: how much did that cost taxpayers in Saskatchewan?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Serby: — Mr. Speaker, the member from Swift Current asks a very important question and he makes a

comment, Mr. Speaker, about who is the joke in this Assembly, Mr. Speaker. Who's the joke, Mr. Speaker?

And I say to the member opposite today, he just needs to examine, Mr. Speaker, what's happening in the Melville constituency, Mr. Speaker.

You want to know, Mr. Speaker, about what Saskatchewan people are thinking about which is the joke party here in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker? It's right over there, Mr. Speaker. That's who the joke party is, Mr. Speaker.

And I say to the member opposite, yes, we brought some additional potatoes into Saskatchewan to meet the process requirements. Absolutely, we did, in the same way that we would import to Saskatchewan malt barley to meet the obligations that we have on the malt barley side, Mr. Speaker, and in the same way in this province that we would bring in additional wheat to make the flour milling industry in Saskatchewan whole, if we have to do that, Mr. Speaker.

And that goes to show what very little that member opposite from Swift Current knows about the economy and the industry of agriculture in this province, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Wall: — Well, Mr. Speaker, if the Deputy Premier is that confident in his argument, fair enough. And he ought to whisper to the gentleman sitting beside him and encourage him to call an election and we'll leave it up to the people to decide, Mr. Speaker.

And I would wager . . . And I'd be willing to wager, Mr. Speaker, that in 28 days after that, we'll be switching sides, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Wall: — The question to the Deputy Premier was this, the question was this: because the potatoes fried up black, the Saskatchewan taxpayer apparently had to pay — had to pay — for American potatoes to be shipped to this company. And the question to the Deputy Premier was simple: how much did that cost the taxpayers?

Hon. Mr. Serby: — Well, Mr. Speaker, the member knows the answer to that question. A part of the cost of the overall debt is part of that expense, Mr. Speaker. The member knows that, Mr. Speaker — he knows that. And he just needs to review it in the Crown Corporations so he has the answer to that, Mr. Speaker.

But I say to the member opposite this, Mr. Speaker. There should be no concern by the members on that side of the House about the expedience of which they'll be on this side of the House, Mr. Speaker, because it will be a long, long day in Saskatchewan before anybody from that side of the House ever gets over here, Mr. Speaker.

I say to the members opposite, you just need to take a look at what's happening in Saskatchewan land today. You just need to examine what's happened in the constituency of Melville today, Mr. Speaker, and Saskatchewan people will speak out across

the piece about the way in which you people are dealing with . . .

The Speaker: — Order, order. I would just like to remind the member from Yorkton, the Deputy Premier, the Minister of Agriculture to keep all of his remarks, all the time, to the Chair.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Treaty Land Entitlement Claims

Mr. Elhard: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is for the Deputy Premier, the Minister of Agriculture. Earlier this month, the Saskatchewan landowners, lessees' rights group invited the minister to attend a public information meeting on the issue of Crown grazing lease renewals. That meeting will take place in Tompkins this Friday, the 21st.

At the time of the invitation, the minister said that due to the numbers in the Legislative Assembly he could only attend the Tompkins meeting if a member of the opposition also attended. Mr. Speaker, I am attending that meeting this Friday but I understand that the minister has now told the group that he will not attend.

Mr. Speaker, the integrity of the lease renewal process is of tremendous importance to the lessees and will have a potentially significant impact for the province. Mr. Speaker, the question is: why won't the minister attend this public meeting and openly discuss this very important issue?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Serby: — I appreciate the question that the member has asked. And the member, I believe, was at the SARM (Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities) convention as well when I answered this question on behalf of SARM. And I believe he heard me indicate why I wouldn't be coming.

I will have officials at the meeting on Friday as I'd indicated. And I'd intended, Mr. Speaker, to already have a conversation with the group from that part of Saskatchewan but my schedule had changed and I've not been able to do that. I now have a meeting scheduled. I now have a meeting scheduled, Mr. Speaker, with that group early next week and we're going to have a long discussion about the importance of how we deal with the TLE (treaty land entitlement) in the province. And I'll have officials at the meeting on Friday, Mr. Speaker, as I'd indicated.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

(14:15)

Mr. Elhard: — Several planned meetings have been brokered. Several planned meeting dates have been broken, Mr. Speaker, and I'll be talking to the members of this organization as of Friday — maybe even sooner. We'll find out if they have a commitment from this minister for a meeting in the future.

Mr. Speaker, according to the Treaty Land Entitlement . . .

The Speaker: — Order, please. Order, please. Order, please.

Mr. Elhard: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. According to the Treaty Land Entitlement Agreement negotiated between the First Nations, the federal government, and the province of Saskatchewan, the province has 90 days from the time it is notified of the land claim to determine third party stakeholder interests and to indicate the government's intention with regard to claims settlement.

Mr. Speaker, the 90-day period for the remaining Poundmaker First Nation claims, involving thousands of acres of Crown land, has now expired. As clearly spelled in the TLE agreement, the province ought to have responded to both claims by now.

Mr. Speaker, my question to the minister is this: has the province of Saskatchewan responded to the Poundmaker First Nation's last two claims? If so, what was the response? And if not, Mr. Speaker, why is the province violating the Treaty Land Entitlement Agreement which they supposedly negotiated with these people in good faith?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Serby: — The member from Swift Current, Mr. Speaker, asks a . . . not from Swift Current, the member from Maple Creek, Mr. Speaker, asks a very important question.

Because, Mr. Speaker, we have an agreement with treaty land . . . under the treaty land entitlement, Mr. Speaker, and we've negotiated that agreement in good faith with First Nations people. But, by the same token, we have people today who represent . . . who that member represents, who are ranchers and farmers in that very area of the province, Mr. Speaker, who have come to me and said, we'd like to have access to that land for a longer period of time; we'd like you to renew the lease again for 33 years.

And we've said to those farm groups and those farm organizations that we have an agreement that we need to honour with the First Nations. Farmers want us to take that land, Mr. Speaker, and renew it with them over a period of 33 years. First Nations people want that lease turned over to them immediately. This is a very delicate issue, Mr. Speaker, with farmers and First Nations people in Saskatchewan. And it is not about picking winners and losers, Mr. Speaker, as that party would do. It's not about picking winners and losers, Mr. Speaker. It's about finding a fair negotiated settlement with First Nations and ranchers in the province.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, with leave to make a statement on the circumstances in Iraq.

Leave granted.

STATEMENT BY PREMIER

Canadian Policy on Conflict in Iraq

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, colleagues. As noted in yesterday's Speech from the Throne, we

join today with the hopes and prayers of all those who seek peace, justice, and security for all nations and peoples of the world.

We believe that it is essential that in all matters of international security that Canada establish its own foreign policy and uphold the role of the United Nations. We loathe the undemocratic nature of Iraq . . . of the Iraq government and its aggressive actions.

We support full United Nations intervention to ensure that Iraq does not jeopardize the peace and security of others. We also support international efforts to stop terrorism, the most abhorrent and cowardly of actions of humankind.

It is for these reasons that we believe Canada's engagement in Iraq must be supported by a resolution of the UN (United Nations) Security Council. Not to do so is to undermine the important continuing role of the United Nations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Serby: — Mr. Speaker, by leave of the Assembly, I'd like to move first reading of two Bills.

Leave granted.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 1 — The Saskatoon Fairview Constituency By-election Act

Hon. Mr. Serby: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 1, The Saskatoon Fairview Constituency By-election Act, be now introduced and read for the first time.

Motion agreed to, the Bill read a first time and, by leave of the Assembly, ordered to be read a second time later this day.

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 1 — The Saskatoon Fairview Constituency By-election Act

Hon. Mr. Serby: — Mr. Speaker, by leave, I move that the second reading of the Bill be . . . Bill No. 1 be now considered.

Motion agreed to, the Bill read a second time and, by leave of the Assembly, referred to a Committee of the Whole later this day.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 2 — The Battleford-Cut Knife Constituency By-election Act

Hon. Mr. Serby: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 2, The Battleford-Cut Knife Constituency By-election Act, be now introduced and read for the first time.

Motion agreed to, the Bill read a first time and, by leave of the Assembly, ordered to be read a second time later this day.

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 2 — The Battleford-Cut Knife Constituency By-election Act

Hon. Mr. Serby: — Mr. Speaker, with leave I move second reading of this Bill No. 2.

Motion agreed to, the Bill read a second time and, by leave of the Assembly, referred to a Committee of the Whole later this day.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Bill No. 1 — The Saskatoon Fairview Constituency By-election Act

Clauses 1 to 6 inclusive agreed to.

The committee agreed to report the Bill.

Bill No. 2 — The Battleford-Cut Knife Constituency By-election Act

Clauses 1 to 6 inclusive agreed to.

The committee agreed to report the Bill.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 1 — The Saskatoon Fairview Constituency By-election Act

Hon. Mr. Serby: — Mr. Speaker, by leave, I move that Bill No. 1, The Saskatoon Fairview Constituency By-election Act, be now read a third time and passed under its title.

Motion agreed to, the Bill read a third time and passed under its title.

Bill No. 2 — The Battleford-Cut Knife Constituency By-election Act

Hon. Mr. Serby: — Mr. Speaker, by leave, I move that Bill No. 2, The Battleford-Cut Knife Constituency By-election Act, be now read a third time and passed under its title.

Motion agreed to, the Bill read a third time and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — Order. I am pleased to advise the members that Her Honour is here for Royal Assent.

ROYAL ASSENT

At 14:42 Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor entered the Chamber, took her seat upon the throne, and gave Royal Assent to the following Bills:

Bill No. 1 - The Saskatoon Fairview Constituency
By-election Act

Bill No. 2 - The Battleford-Cut Knife Constituency
By-election Act

Her Honour: — In Her Majesty's name, I assent to these Bills.

Her Honour retired from the Chamber at 14:43.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

The Speaker: — Order, order. The House will come to order.

Hon. Members, pursuant to an Act of this Legislative Assembly respecting a by-election in the constituency of Saskatoon Fairview which was assented to today, Mr. Andy Iwanchuk is authorized to take his seat as a member for the constituency of Saskatoon Fairview.

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present to you Mr. Andy Iwanchuk, member for the constituency of Saskatoon Fairview, who has taken the oath and signed the roll and now claims the right to take his seat.

The Speaker: — Mr. Iwanchuk, welcome to the Legislative Assembly and I hope that your time here will be one that serves to be a record of honour to yourself and your constituents.

Let the hon. member take his seat.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Hon. members, pursuant to an Act of this Legislative Assembly respecting the by-election in the constituency of Battleford-Cut Knife, which was assented to today, Mr. Walter Lorenz is authorized to take his seat as a member for the constituency of Battleford-Cut Knife.

Mr. Hermanson: — Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present to you Mr. Wally Lorenz of the constituency of Battleford-Cut Knife, who has taken the oath and signed the roll and now claims his right to take his seat.

The Speaker: — Mr. Lorenz, welcome to the Legislative Assembly and I hope that your time here will be one that serves to be a record of honour to yourself and to your constituency.

Let the hon. member take his seat.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

(15:00)

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SPECIAL ORDER

ADDRESS IN REPLY

Mr. Goulet: — Mr. Speaker, it is indeed an honour for me to be moving the Throne Speech of 2003. I'll be, of course, moving the motion in an official form just after the end of my presentation.

Mr. Speaker, as I start, I would like to first of all thank the

Premier for asking me to do the motion at this important day in the legislature. And as well, Mr. Speaker, as I do my thanks, as I watch the new members, you know, coming in, I watched the member from of course Cutknife-Battleford and also from Saskatoon Fairview.

I did make an announcement last year, Mr. Speaker, that I would indeed be leaving politics and that this was going to be my last term. And you never know, Mr. Speaker, I may have one more chance at the Throne Speech, but for this one I am thinking that it . . . indeed it'll be quite enjoyable.

It was . . . I'd like to say in that regard, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to say a special thank you to my . . . to the people of the province, you know, for the great institution, you know, of democracy that we have established in this province since 1905. And the establishment of tremendous principles of what we see universally through the world.

And as well, I'd like to thank my constituents from the Cumberland constituency who have put me on the floor of this legislature now for four consecutive terms. And I have been very, very proud to represent them over this period in time.

As well, I'd like to thank my parents. My late mother, who died when I was 16 years old, often dreamed that I would become a teacher, you know, at one point. And it was very true. As I evolved and developed, I spent 19 years in the field of education before my 17 years in politics. And what she did not know that later on I would become, you know, the first Aboriginal person to be a minister of the Crown in the province of Saskatchewan and that is what I'm proud of.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Goulet: — And, Mr. Speaker, when my mother dreamed that I would become a teacher, she did not think that I would become a minister also in charge of Education, you know, at one point in this province. And I was very pleased to do that in regards to northern areas where I'm from, which is my own areas, as well as with First Nations and Métis people in this province.

Mr. Speaker, I was also going to say a special thanks to my family. I have of course seven sisters and one brother. And interesting, I lost two brothers when I was . . . both of them at 23 years old. Of my sisters, I have . . . In my family, we have quite a few people with education degrees and one with a Bachelor of Administration, one had taken law. So we've had quite a successful family in regards to public service, in regards to being successful in the schooling system and in work. So I'm always very, very proud of my own family and their strong support that they have given me over the years, you know, as the politician, you know, of the family.

And as well, getting into the family, I know that my sister's . . . niece is here, Sasha, and as well with my wife Linda, who is in the west gallery. And I may say that, you know, as all MLAs, we know the importance of spouses — you know, wives and husbands — as we go on doing our work. I mean, it's . . .

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Goulet: — Mr. Speaker, I think it's not only as we deal with the stresses of politics. I mean there's everything that you deal with: you know, different cases of abuse; you know, you're dealing with the issues that we've dealt with on health, on health reform; you know, the privatization debates that I went through. On all of the things that we go . . . going through, that you always need a sense of support. Of course you have strong support from your colleagues; you have strong support from the public.

But it's also very important to have that strength that you get everyday as you wake up and your wife is there and your spouse is there to give you that support. It's not only a place of emotional support, it's a case of the knowledge the person brings to the floor because, as a resident of the province, he is part of the history of the province. And also the skills that they bring, you know, as . . . in regards to their own work. My wife has worked in the field of education for many, many years — teacher education as well as being a teacher in northern Manitoba, northern Saskatchewan, and throughout the provinces.

So I'd like to say a special thank you to my wife for all the years of the support that she has given me and also for being the great partner in raising two of our daughters, Koonu and Danis, who are . . . When I talk to them they say: Dad, you know, as we were growing up, nine and ten years old, we knew that you were in teaching earlier on but we kind of forget that, all we have ever known you as is a politician and a dad. So in that sense, you know, the great aspect, the family life that a person brings, you know, to the legislature, is an extremely . . . an integral part of what we do. So again, thank you to my wife in that regard.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Goulet: — Mr. Speaker, I will be doing the overview. I will be interjecting some of my speech with due respect to all languages of the world and also to all indigenous languages in this province, in Canada. I'll be interspersing my speech as well as . . . in Cree, in the Cree language. And I'll be doing that in the major sections.

I'll be doing my first section on the issue of economic development and talk about the economic development aspect of the Throne Speech and as well as the history of economic development, particularly as it pertains to Aboriginal people in the North and, to a certain extent, the province as well. But I thought that I would do that aspect, and as well, on the case of Aboriginal people in the North. I wanted to get into a little bit more in-depth, specific detail on the accomplishments of building with people.

We had a policy not only of building partnerships with people, Mr. Speaker, but also we had a policy of being wide open in this province, of being inclusive — open and inclusiveness was the essence of our government.

And in regards to the fact that many governments in the past have tried to make a breakthrough in regards to northern development and in regards to working with First Nations and Métis people, I thought that I was very proud of our record in that regard. So I'll be dealing with that aspect as well.

Now as I looked at the first issue on economic development, we know that part of our development is the case of resources development. The first two I want to deal with are mining and forestry. On the mining sector, as I was growing up I had heard stories about the development of mining in our area. My grandfather, who used to work in Flin Flon at the mine, had come from Cumberland and had worked in Flin Flon and was working on transporting ore. He had gotten injured on the job at that time and later on he caught . . . he got sick and had TB (tuberculosis).

And it was quite the thing that as I looked at the mining sector there was people in my background that had done the mining sector thing and my grandfather, you know, was obviously one of them. We were, as Aboriginal people, people involved in the finding of the ore. It was Aboriginal people who found the ore in Flin Flon, one of the longest-serving mines in the history of this province. Sometimes the benefit does not, you know, go back to them but that's the way it was and that's what I had heard when I was growing up in Cumberland.

And it's very, very important as I talk about this that I bring in the aspect of relationships with people. You know, the question of inclusion, inclusion of Aboriginal people and sometimes a history of racism, you know, that stems in on that regard, and sometimes that we get too overly rigid in our policies in regard. I remember my dad telling me about visiting his dad who had TB. And my father went over there and had travelled all the way by . . . He first of all had to go from Cumberland to The Pas, and had gone in on the train and had come to P.A. (Prince Albert) to see his father who was at the TB clinic.

But with the policies of the day they were not allowed to see him. He had to leave there without seeing his father. And after he left, not long after that, his father died. So he was never even to see his father and where his dad was buried. He ended up being buried in P.A. We finally found the place where he was buried, you know, later on. And it was those types of situations, you know, that I dealt with when I was growing up, that I heard stories about that were very, very important in terms of the building of self-determination on my part.

You know, my great-grandfather had been part of the Métis resistance in Red River but also on my mother's side in Batoche. And they were my . . . (Cree) . . . was my . . . we said it was my grandfather in Cree. Technically — I checked it out — it was my great great-uncle. And he was part of the provisional government and he had been stoned to death by the Wolsley militia, you know, in regards to the time they came to Red River.

So it was ironic that later on in regards to making a strong stand, you know, as a Métis person in those days, in trying to get . . . to develop the province of Manitoba . . . to try and make Manitoba into the province and bringing Métis people into the province, that I later on, you know, would be part of the Crown myself. That was the irony of history — that as a Métis person I became a cabinet minister, you know, of this province.

And it was those types of things that got me going on the economic development side. On the side of . . . I saw the evolution of welfare. Many of our people were resistant to welfare and many of our people who were very proud to be on

the trapline . . . Although after the development of the dam which knocked off over 90 per cent of the wildlife in our area on trapping, you know, a lot of the transition to other jobs was very, very difficult for people.

And as I was . . . during that, you know, development on working on the trapline and dealing with the issues, a lot of the things that became to . . . that we saw in regards to the environment and the destruction of the dam, you know, the idea of sustainability, it was a very, very important lesson for me when I was growing up. We had, as Crees in that area, key concepts of sustainability.

As a matter of fact we used to have a concept called . . . and in Cree we called it *kuochinan*, meaning that if you destroy your environment, it comes back to haunt you; that if you destroy and do not take care of your environment, for example, and that applied to wildlife . . . if I was hunting and I did not do a proper, quick kill and if that animal escaped, then in the long run if that animal got disease from that wound that I would have given that animal, then I would catch that disease. That was the belief that we were raised with and it was called *kuochinan* in Cree.

(15:15)

So many of those things, the fundamental aspect of my being is not only the aspect of learning English within the system of schools. When I first started school, I had to learn English; I didn't speak any English at all. I mean the first words I learned was good morning, sister. And you know, we were taught by nuns and it's a very interesting thing, you know, that language issue because I was . . . it was very, very difficult for me as I learned to speak English, you know, later on.

Even in high school, when I was graduating with a scholarship from high school because of my science and math marks, I was in a situation one time when, as I was entering the room, my landlady was standing on the doorway. And this is grade 12 in the springtime. I'm in track and field and I'm there with my friend. I'm introducing my friend and I completely forget how to do introductions because the way we were taught is that you hold your hand out and you shake a person's hand and you say, how do you do. But I'd been living in P.A. for about two years and nobody ever said that. And . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . One member says, they still don't. And in my mind it was racing, well how do I do an introduction. Here I'm going . . . I'm winning a scholarship to go to university, how do I do an introduction?

And sure enough my landlady sees I'm in a conundrum so she says, oh, what's your friend's name? And I went whew. And I looked around and looked at my friend — I had completely forgotten my friend's name.

So those were the types of situations, you know, that I met up with as I . . . as I was out . . . as I was in that situation.

And I noticed as I'm going up here, there is also my sister Monica Goulet, whose daughter is Sasha that's up there on the west gallery as well, so I'd like members to again welcome them . . . welcome her to the House.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Goulet: — So those are the types of situations that I went through.

On mining, therefore, a lot of our people went working in the mines in Manitoba. And I said that I lost a brother, one working on . . . (inaudible) . . . development, but another one was working in the oil rigs up in Swan Hills. That's where he got killed while he was working there.

So a lot of times people figure that our people didn't travel elsewhere to go and work. My father used to work in the DEW (distant early warning) line. My father went to work one time in the United States to bring money, you know, into the house, up in Minneapolis.

So, many people talk about this laziness concept about Aboriginal people and it is that type of racism, you know, that I had to deal with as I was growing up. And it was something that I was very, very strong about, in regards to making sure that you were proud of what you did and you spoke up of what you did as I was growing up. Because in many cases that's the way it was.

On mining what I was proud of — as we did 10 years of our government coming in, I knew that the Blakeney government had set a standard in the '70s on mining — when we first started the mining ventures we only had about 5 per cent of the people working in the mines. After the construction phase was over, then our people were gone. They were not working in the developing phases or the maintenance phases of the mines. One or two people may be working there. And we saw that in the existing mines.

But some of our people, therefore, lived in Thompson, Little Lake, and all of those places where mines were taking place. And some also worked in the mines up in, north of La Ronge. But it was something that I had recognized.

I was very proud when we did the development. And many of the Tories at that time did not like affirmative action lease agreements. But the Blakeney government brought those in. And we continued that process even when the Tories were in, in the '80s when Grant Devine was in. They didn't pay much attention to those policies.

The number of people who worked at the mines, particularly in one of the major mines, Key Lake, had dropped. Cluff Lake remained not bad at about over 40 per cent. But on that one, it had dropped to about 20 per cent.

And when we started government — when we took over government — there was approximately 500 people in the mines. At our highest level we achieved close to 1,000 people on the mines. So that was a very important aspect. You could double the numbers over a 10-year period in the people who worked at the mines.

A lot of people said, oh the Aboriginal people don't have enough education; oh the Aboriginal people do not have industrial training. You know they won't fit in the time orientation and all of that. But actually that was made to be

false. You know people came in when they were given the opportunity on an affirmative action lease agreement. They proved that they could work with the best workers in the world.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Goulet: — An interesting thing too, a bit of the myths become shattered through the process — I know that I came in from the trapline— just because we had a different time orientation, when we did the trapline we used to get up at 4 o'clock in the morning and get out there with a dog team and check the traps all day long and come back.

Just because you start working at 7 o'clock . . . I ended up working one time in a furniture factory and I ended up working in an assembly line. And I got up at 7 o'clock in the morning. Well it was only three hours difference. You know I got up at 4 o'clock when I was trapping. I'm in the assembly and I had to be at work at 7 o'clock in the morning and you know get off at 4. But I learned both things. I learned to do it properly. And trapping I learned to do it properly, you know, when I was in the assembly line. But it was those types of things that were important.

A lot of people thought that as the Crees got the job in the mines in the early days that the Dene people may have those problems because they're a more traditional lifestyle people, you know, more on the trapping, fishing, and hunting. It's proven wrong.

We used to have about half a dozen people who were Dene, who were working in the mines. We had up to in time, in the past 10 years, we've had up to 150 people, 200 people, Dene people working in the mines. And that was a very important development as well, you know, as a Cree making sure that the inclusion not only of Crees but Dene people, all peoples, including First Nations. Métis was an important part of industrial development in the province.

And as I looked at that aspect, that was something I'm very, very proud of, that we were able to achieve not only a strong position on jobs, but also on business development.

When we took over government, there was about \$20 million worth of contracts. In the past four years, we've added 180 to \$200 million worth of contracts; 180 to \$200 million worth of contracts. And you have now people who have done international work. We have Chief Cook in the Lac La Ronge Indian Band. We have people, you know, that have worked in from the west side, from Ile-a-la-Crosse, you know, from Buffalo — people who have worked in different situations, Patuanak.

They have their corporations and they have worked through in regards to being part of the mining development. But it was a very, very important aspect, something in terms of development that not only was it important to have a job, it was important for people to be business developers. And that was a thing that was an important aspect of our approach.

The other thing is that we didn't forget about the environment as we did the uranium development. We had probably the world-class level in regards to the environment standards,

because we included not only the best of the federal and provincial government but in terms of regulations. And sometimes, we ran into a little bit of a problem there. But what happened is that, in the North we developed environmental quality committees. We have three committees in the North — the Athabasca region, the west side, the east side. And they all come . . . There was about 70 people that were involved in the process.

They went to visit the mine sites. They went to different sites in Ontario. They went to see exactly how the environment was being run. They looked at the different concepts of radiation. They looked at the different concepts of how they used the dust meters. They used many other aspects of uranium mining development and they were very, very proud of what they've learned.

And they've become part of not only the provincial process on checking on the environment, but also the federal process as well. And they played a strong, strong role in regards . . . It's a first of its kind anywhere in the world to have Aboriginal people involved in the environmental type of monitoring that was there when Blakeney was around the first time, and the Tories did away with that aspect when they took power. So that's another aspect.

And the other thing is on forestry. We've tried to duplicate the forestry effort over time. I know that we had an excellent forestry centre, you know, going up in Prince Albert with partnerships with Métis and First Nations and the entrepreneurs and the educational researchers, you know, of the region. And I thought that we've been doing quite well, you know, apart from the fact that we had the softwood lumber issue which made it very difficult for our mills in the North because initially it was 19 per cent and then it was 29 per cent. I mean, you try and take 29 per cent away from people on their profit margin, it is extremely difficult.

And, you know, at a time when the Americans want to get us onside on some other issue relating to the war, you know they are putting a tough position on us on softwood lumber as well as on the agricultural sector. And it is something that I know in regards to the development, that forestry is something that we need to do on a sustainable level.

Just for an example on sustainability, a lot of people didn't know that as we're doing the forest fire fighting sometimes we spend \$95 million on forest fire fighting in the North. A couple of times we went up over 90 million in the past 10 years. But the forest fire itself destroys about, oh approximately 10 to 15 times, depending on what year it is, the number of trees that are being harvested. It's an interesting statistic.

But it is something that we know that a lot of people care very much that indeed over the long run you have to have a sustainable cut. And we've been having a lot of the aspects this year as part of our budget. We have of course a carbon sequestration project, which is the first of its kind in Canada; you know four million trees are going to be planted. And it is something to be very, very proud of, that as we do economic development, whether it's, you know, the . . . (inaudible) . . . in mining and forestry, we have these type of what I would call green power type of situations and green policies. And we're

moving on them and making sure that indeed that the word sustainability is meaningful.

The other thing on forestry is this. We were the first in Canada. There was nobody that touched us in Manitoba, Alberta, anywhere, on working with Aboriginal people, on working with First Nations and Métis people because not only was it important to train people, not only was it important to do business development. The last major highest form of development in the province is a lease agreement because in the lease agreement you handle all of those things, including resource management. You do the environmental impact assessments along with it and, in that sense it is something that's very, very important for us is that our people in the North . . . the only place where it first happened where we have people involved in lease agreements making up First Nations is in northern Saskatchewan. We have the chiefs starting out in Meadow Lake. Up in the west side we now have many communities joining forces vis-à-vis the lease agreements. And in central location we have La Ronge and the Zelinsky brothers joining up with a partner over the long run on a lease agreement, Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation, and possible partners in the future as well.

And the only other province that came close to us was agreement that Quebec government did last year in regards to the forestry development. That was the only one that came close to what we were attempting to do in this province. And the other thing is that we had a . . . we've been trying to get the federal government for the longest time . . . they used to provide about 60 per cent of the money in the North on development. So we've tried to establish a partnership with them for a long time. We spent about 4 and \$5 million a year on economic development. And we wanted to get at least a northern accord with them.

And this past year the member from Athabasca, who is the Minister of Northern Affairs, did an agreement — the northern accord, with a \$20 million agreement. And that \$20 million agreement was \$10 million from the feds. So we get \$2 million a year from the feds, you know, on a five-year basis. That was an important step because a long time ago we used to have a federal-provincial agreement . . . so we created a Canada-Saskatchewan agreement and that is an important aspect in regards on an important standard of policy development anywhere in Canada.

Okay, so that . . . it is indeed something that I was proud of as a minister having been able to work on it on a developmental phase and my friend, you know, from Ile-a-la-Crosse, the member of Athabasca, finished the job and away we went in that regard.

We also did a bit on . . . some developmental work on fisheries. Fisheries was something that was important. I had done fishing when I was young — I used to do winter fishing, summer fishing — and it was something that I wanted to do was to work with the traditional resource users. So we developed a plan where we used to do a fish transportation subsidy about . . . about \$250,000 a year. We have then increased that now to \$450,000 a year, because there was an uptake with the . . .

When the Minister of the Environment was there, the member

from Athabasca and myself, we did a joint strategy to try and get \$700,000 worth of development on lakeshore facilities for the fisher people in northern Saskatchewan. And it was very, very important for us to be able to then carry that through.

(15:30)

I've always challenged the member from the . . . the MP (Member of Parliament), Rick Laliberte, in regards to the federal level, because I know that they do good work on cost sharing on fixing houses; not on building houses though, but on fixing houses. And I like the cost-shared agreement on that \$10 million and I thanked the federal government on that. And I was proud of their position vis-à-vis the war.

But I wanted them to look seriously at cost sharing some of these projects like fisheries. But they didn't bite . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . The fish didn't bite, one of the members says, and the federal government didn't bite on the \$700,000 on the fisheries development that we did.

And so it's that type of thing that was very, very important vis-à-vis the traditional resource users. So we were not forgetting the major developers. We were looking at traditional resource users as well.

On the trapping, I was proud of the record we did as the government. We stood by the trappers when the animal rights people . . . And some of the animal rights people were properly very good people in regards to having practical policies, but there was also a more extreme type of animal rights people who were there. And we met with them . . . When we did the trip in 1996 with the trappers and the veterans, the veterans were there to support us.

Our line was very simple at that time. When we went to Europe with the veterans, First Nations and Métis veterans came along. Some of the people thought that it wouldn't work. But we had strategically designed it so we were 10 days prior to the major decision at St. Petersburg. We got together and we said, 10 days, we're going to hit England first, because that's where the centre of the fur trade. Then we would go to Ireland because Ireland was where the presidency of the European Union was. Then we wanted to go to Belgium, and then we finished off where the centre of a lot of the animal rights people were, was at The Hague and also in Amsterdam.

So we did all of that, and we came away with an agreement that was acceptable to both sides. We still had debates on this and that, but we dealt with the issue of the safety vis-à-vis the trappers but also to the animal rights people in a sense that the humane trapping standards were established. And it is something that we are proud of.

Because a lot of people thought, how do we move Europe? You know, these are big countries. How do we get Germany to come onside? How do we get the Soviet Union to come onside? By the way, the Soviet Union was onside on that one. But how do we get the Europeans, because they knew they had strong environmental problems and there was strong environmental movement in those areas. But we were able to do it and that's one thing I was very, very proud of, you know, as a person, and we continue to work with trappers into the future.

The other aspect is this. I mentioned that it is very important for me to say a few words in Cree and I will now say a few words in Cree on that which I presented.

(The hon. member spoke for a time in Cree.)

Mr. Speaker, as I was doing the development, I wanted to make sure that we were talking and explaining the major aspects in Cree. And that is a very, very important aspect of my being too, as I did a lot of debates in Cree in the House over the past . . . over 16 years.

Now I want get into the aspect of diversification. In the Throne Speech we see the many areas of diversification. Now of course when we want to do diversification, there's investments in different areas. And the Tories, the Saskatchewan Party, will throw in our face the question of SPUDCO. And sure enough, that is indeed what they will do. They will pick examples, one or two examples, where things may have not gone as best as it could and they will utilize those examples to say that that's the way it worked.

They will forget that we play a leadership role vis-à-vis when we did the Chunnel in between England and France. SaskTel — world experts in regards to the development there — became to be recognized internationally for the work that they did. But will those members mention that and be proud of Saskatchewan workers? Not at all.

You know a lot of our people do work all over the place and we're proud of our workforce. But those Saskatchewan Party, they do not like what our workers do. They just pick on the ones that fail.

And also on the business side, you know there's a lot of proper businesses that were done over the past few years. And I mentioned even Lac La Ronge Indian Band and I met a lot of the business development. There's \$200 million worth of contracts in northern Saskatchewan — very successful. And also hundreds of millions in the province in many sectors. But are these people proud of the Saskatchewan entrepreneurs? No. No. They keep being negative about it.

As I looked at the SPUDCO issue, it reminded me it was connected with the . . . Of course Grant Schmidt was a former PC (Progressive Conservative) guy. Well and now he may be a former Sask Party guy. And I'd like to say a few words in that regard because one of the things that has come through, through the Grant Schmidt issue, is the question of democracy. But it's not only a question of democracy; it's a question of speaking the truth.

One of the things that's very, very important is the question of trust that people have on the Leader of the Saskatchewan Party. And a lot of people are questioning because every single one of their members . . . If you look at the time when they were working with the Reform Party . . . Oh, oh. The Reform Party changed their name to the Canadian Alliance. And the PCs changed their name to the Saskatchewan Party. Well they may change their name, but they're the same, the same, same people.

And so when they're . . . During this development on the SPUDCO case and also on the Schmidt case . . . And they're

occurring at approximately the same time. So here you have this Schmidt who used to be of course working with Grant Devine. And in democracy, the Sask Party said, oh we're the grassroots party. We listen to the people. You know we will listen to all our members. We are the party that listens to the community level. Tremendous, tremendous speeches being made by Sask Party people all through the place. And a lot of them made the same speeches when they're at the Reform Party convention or at the Canadian Lions convention or the PC convention. You know, they were making all of these speeches all the time.

And I would like to look at some of the things . . . the letters that I've read. I look at this letter from, on this particular issue, from, it was from Wanda Bartlett. It's a letter to the editor, March 11, 2003, Weyburn; Weyburn, Saskatchewan. Now this is what she says: of course, she says, that it's very, very difficult to make sense of the Saskatchewan Party these days on exactly what they really mean, you know, on democracy and local control probably. But this is what she says, quote:

Some, like former Conservative Dan D'Autremont, say Schmidt has been given the boot because of his ties to the Conservative Party.

My goodness, they are going to wear out their shoes picking out everybody who meets that description.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Goulet: — She goes on to write:

What about MLA Brenda Bakken? What about MLA Doreen Eagles who was Grant Devine's personal assistant?

I'm reading a quote, Mr. Speaker, from a letter.

The Speaker: — Order. Order.

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On a point of order, the member from Cumberland knows full well that you do not use the names of any member of this Assembly. He's been a member since 1986, Mr. Speaker, and is very aware of the rules.

I ask that you ask him to retract his comments and his naming, and apologizing for doing so when he knows full well what the rules are.

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. On the same point of order, the Opposition House Leader raises an issue which has been brought to this House many times over the years. And I know, Mr. Speaker, that you will be well aware that although it is true that we cannot do indirectly what we're not permitted to do directly, you will be aware as well that there have been precedent rulings in this House which have permitted for the reading of quotes when it's referenced. And I was listening very carefully to the remarks brought by the hon. member from Cumberland and he said, Mr. Speaker, as he introduced his information that he was reading from, he was quoting his source.

He in fact while making his statement again made reference to the fact that he was again quoting his source very clearly on the

record, Mr. Speaker, and I'm confident that when you consider the precedents that have been set in this House, that you will find that in fact the hon. member's remarks were really quite in order.

The Speaker: — Thank you very much. Members of the Assembly, in this case both the leader, the Opposition House Leader and the Government Deputy House Leader I believe are correct as according to precedent, that is that we ordinarily don't use names in speeches; however, that in the case of quotations, that we have in the past allowed the use of members' names and we have done so I believe on the idea that quite often members' names appear, particularly in newspapers, and . . . Order, please.

So I say that the member is in order and I recognize the member for Cumberland.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Goulet: — And the member says that we were not paying attention. I think they are indeed paying attention because truth hurts, Mr. Speaker. The truth hurts very much.

So, Mr. Speaker, I will continue the quote, the quotation. Quote:

What about MLA Brad Wall who was an assistant to the disgraced John Gerich while Gerich was Grant Schmidt's Associate Minister in Economic Development? MLA Don Toth served one term in the Devine government. And nearly all of the current SaskParty senior staff cut their political teeth in the same government.

I might add that Bill Boyd, who was the head of the PCs, is now heading up the political campaign, you know, for the Sask Party. And as well, we have people such as Rick Swenson, former PC guy, who is a campaign manager in Moose Jaw North. So we have still a whole bunch of Tories that are working for the Sask Party.

And so it begs the question, you know, when they're kicking out Grant Schmidt, whether or not they will kick out the rest of those members, you know, that I've named, you know in regards to keeping, you know, certain types of standards.

(15:45)

Now the other thing that was very interesting. I was looking at this article vis-à-vis the Progressive Conservative angle and also the angle vis-à-vis the Reform Party and the Alliance. And this was an article by James Parker, March 7, 2003 and it's in *The StarPhoenix*. He was basically saying that, if the Saskatchewan . . . And quote:

If the Saskatchewan Party decides Grant Schmidt is an unsuitable candidate because of his association with the Grant Devine government, what will it do if an employee of Saskatoon Humboldt MP Jim Pankiw is nominated as a candidate?

He further on says:

Patrick Bundrock, who has worked in Pankiw's Saskatoon

office as executive assistant for the last five years, is the only person running for the . . . (Saskatchewan) Party nomination in the constituency of Saskatoon Sutherland. The nomination meeting is set for March 27.

He also said:

Bundrock, (Bundrock) ran for the Progressive Conservatives in the 1995 provincial election, . . .

So I rest my case in regards to that. In regards to the Tories, a lot times they try to forget that, and try to say that, they were not the PCs. It didn't work; people still know that they're the old Tories. But also too, the Reform Party did the same when they changed their name to the Canadian Alliance, but it didn't work.

All I know is that Jim Pankiw definitely didn't vote for the NDP. I think that Jim Pankiw . . . And he wouldn't vote for the federal Liberals. I definitely know that Jim Pankiw would be voting for the Alliance Party and the Saskatchewan Party. That would be very, very clear because he was a supporter of the Saskatchewan Party as well. And that's why his executive assistant is running for the Saskatchewan Party.

I would like to say, as I was mentioning some aspects on the economic development, on the issue of diversification, you know, vis-à-vis agriculture, I mentioned a little bit on the side of the subsidies vis-à-vis forestry in the North and how much it hurt us on the subsidies on the united . . . American side.

I'll give you a couple of pieces of information vis-à-vis the farm side on the subsidies by the American government comparing them to the subsidies of Europe and also the subsidy in Canada. If you look at wheat — these are the 2001 comparisons — in Canada the subsidy level is at 18 per cent, in the United States it's 40 per cent, and in the European Union it's 44 per cent.

If you look at the question of barley it is 13 per cent in Canada, 36 per cent in the United States, and 50 per cent in the European Union. There was always the question you know being raised in the past in regards to the subsidies . . .

An Hon. Member: — And either you're opposed to Jim Pankiw or you're in favour of him.

Mr. Goulet: — That guy is still very impressed with Jim Pankiw, the Saskatchewan Party. And they still kept talking about them over there. I know that he's a supporter of Jim Pankiw, so I don't know. I think that the member of Saskatchewan Party . . . And he also helps Reform Party the same way Jim Pankiw helped the Reform Party. I remember that . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . Yes, you were with the Reform Party.

An Hon. Member: — . . . tell him that there is no Reform Party.

Mr. Goulet: — There is no Reform Party and it changed its name to the Saskatchewan . . . to the Canadian Alliance the same way the PCs changed their name to the Saskatchewan Party.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Goulet: — I was looking at this aspect in regards to tax cuts. Of course in terms of tax cuts and the province, we've done various tax cuts. We've done over \$400 million worth of tax cuts to the working people of this province so that they have a greater buying power in this province. And we cut the small business tax as well. And we have cut, you know, specific aspects of different taxes on the manufacturing side, etc.

And I might add this. I was reading this from Randy Burton, who was in the *The StarPhoenix* on March 11, 2003. He says that we've done some tax cuts as well in the agricultural side. I remember because we knew that there was a lot of problems vis-à-vis the subsidies in the European Union as well as on the side of United States; we need to do some tax cuts on the agricultural sector. But I'll read what Randy Burton says about that on March 11. He says:

The province now gives farmers some \$160 billion annually in various tax exemptions.

These are the quotes from Randy Burton. By the way, he says:

Would the . . . (Saskatchewan) Party end this investment in the farm economy?

It was a very interesting commentary. Because I remember when I was a minister, I knew that the fuel tax exemption, you know, at the farm level, totalled approximately \$115 million, and it was an important strategic decision that we made because of the pressures on the agriculture community in this province. And we, as a government, have made that type of decision in support of the farm families.

I'd like to make some commentary now vis-à-vis the issue relating to Aboriginal people and also to the North . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . The member from . . . The Jim Pankiw supporter over asked me a question again as to whether or not I'll be repeating certain things. No, I will not be repeating. I'll be, for your information, giving you a proper education.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Order, order. I would ask the member in his remarks, even though he is addressing a question that may be posed rhetorically from across the way, should continue his remarks through the Speaker.

Mr. Goulet: — I appreciate your comments, Mr. Speaker, and I will continue my comments through you in this House.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I wanted to make a commentary on treaty land entitlement. Land is a strong issue, and whether you look in Europe and you look at the First World War, the Second World War, you know, the separation of . . . and the quest for land internationally, it's always been a strong issue. And you saw it in Africa vis-à-vis Hutus and the Tutsis, there was always this fight for land over . . . (inaudible) . . . And it's been . . . It's had very strong emotions; it's tied in with concepts such as motherland, fatherland, and in Cree it's also a very strong word for us, we call it a . . . (Cree) . . . you know . . . (Cree) . . . those

types of things.

Land is a very, very, very strong element in regards to the history, not only of many countries in the world but also in this province.

Now on treaty land entitlement, why is it that as a government we supported it in the 1970s? We were the first government to do that in Canada on a major scale where we had the 1.4 million acres of land. Why is it that we went ahead with a new formula in 1992?

After Grant Devine had been in office for nine years, although he had made all kinds of promises, they did not move in on treaty land entitlement. They made all kinds of promises on economic development, Grant Devine. They said if they privatized potash, they would give 5 per cent to treaty Indian people. They never did that. They made all kinds of promises. And I hear the same type of promises being made by the members from across.

On treaty land entitlement it's very important to look at the history in this province, our province, 1905. The first phase of settlement occurs in the 1890s; second major phase, you know, after we become a province, to about 1930. By 1930 there's over 900,000 people in this province.

Why did a lot of people come here? A lot of people came here because of two things. There was a free Homestead Act and a paid Homestead Act. And in that regard a lot of people came here because of the land policies of the federal government at that time under the Dominion Lands Act.

And in that sense if you look at the history, Mr. Speaker . . . I'm going to talk about the history on how much land the new settlers got, how much land the corporations got, and how much land the First Nations got, just so that there is an historical understanding of what really actually happened by 1930. In 1930 therefore, in regards to land vis-à-vis the free homesteads, there was 31 million acres of land. On the minimal payments on the paid homesteads, there were 6 million acres of land. In other words, there was 37 million acres of land on the homesteads policy.

On the case of the issue relating to the aspect of corporations, in Western Canada we had about approximately fifteen and a half million acres of land, of which famous corporations, the CPR (Canadian Pacific Railway) got 6 million acres, over 6 million acres of land. It's very interesting. When the land was transferred in 1869 to later what became the Dominion of Canada, you know, the . . . When we established Canada in 1867 and there was Ruperts Land under the Hudson Bay Company supposedly, that land was very, very important to the Hudson Bay Company and they were able to get over 7 million acres of land. In this province alone, they had 3.4 million acres of land — 3.4 million acres of land.

Thirty-seven million acres on the new settlements. You add about . . . over 15 million acres of land on the development aspects of the railroad corporations, and we also had 3.4 at Hudson Bay Company.

In regards to the questions that were raised earlier on, on school

loss tax compensation in municipalities, we had 4 million acres of land for schools. It was very, very interesting. And many other types of land development issues were done. Those I will . . . In terms of time, I will leave you with that.

But on the First Nations, by 1930 they had lost over 800,000 acres of land because of some crooked deals that were made by some of the agents. The total amount of land was also done and 1.2 million acres of land was there.

Obviously, the member from across says, when I mention crooked agents, there were some. And there were some that were very, very trustworthy. But there were some that were not because we found out in legal cases later on, many of those legal cases on special claims now come to bear on us and indeed, they have found them to be not lawful. But indeed, they have won their cases; the First Nations have won their cases. And I think that, for the members across, it's a very, very important part, you know, of history. And so it was very, very important.

So when we did the treaty land entitlement this time, we're not talking about 60 million acres. We are talking about an extra 1 per cent of the land of the province of Saskatchewan — 2 million acres. Two million acres is about 1 per cent of the land. So the First Nations will now have approximately 2 per cent of the land.

In regards to British law, they owned the land before, so they are left with 2 million. So even if people challenge the concept of treaties — which we don't on this side of the House — we agree with the treaties. And we follow the treaties because in the treaties, when we add the Resources Transfer Agreement, there was a clause in there to respect the treaty. And as a government under Blakeney we respected that.

And we also respected that in 1992. Six months after we were re-elected, we promised we would deliver on TLE and we did. But it was a very, very important fact of history that the new TLE would be about 2 million acres of land, you know. And there was an improvement over the Blakeney model '76, formerly at 1.4, to be about 2 million acres. And that was very, very important in regards to development.

(16:00)

The other thing that is very, very important is that as we're doing First Nations and Métis developments, we look at Métis people and also treaty Indians whose first language is Cree, Dene, etc. In the Cree court we have started a process to recognize one of our indigenous languages of this province. And my first cousin, Judge Gerry Morin, has got the recognition, you know, and the pride, to be the first judge in Canada to do an official Cree court. And it was very, very important in terms of our development because I knew that when I was speaking in this House . . . (Cree) . . . I speak Cree in here, often in the House. I was very proud over the history, I saw more people starting to speak German, Ukrainian, Polish, and everything. It became more acceptable.

And we have been doing that type of work and the openness of people to respect, you know, their people who came here, who had many different languages, is an important part of a new

democracy. And it is that type of thing that I really agree with in regards to the Cree court. But I was saying that racism does exist in the system. And sometimes you know I got letters, when I was speaking in Cree, for me not to speak in Cree in the House.

But also, when in 19 . . . when we were doing the debate, on the potash debate, when we were privatizing potash, and I was doing a debate at that time when the Progressive Conservatives, you know, were around and they were privatizing potash development. I remember they promised the Indians 5 per cent of it, which they never — treaty Indians — and they never gave them a cent.

And they said if you support us we'll give you, you know that 5 per cent, but they never did. But as we're talking about the potash debate, I was speaking about the debate just for a short time. I was speaking about three hours in the House. So I was at the debate for about three hours and then all of a sudden . . . (Cree) . . . and I started speaking in Cree. And while I was in this House, lo and behold — I put it in the records — one of the members on the Tory side signed a document, took it across to me. And you know what that letter said? Speak English, you sound like a babbling fool.

I replied, you know, later on in the House that we have enough racism on the streets than to have racism in the House. And it was a very, very important part. I called it the politics of intimidation.

Many times they were trying to get me from saying statements not only in English, but also in Cree. They wanted me to stop so that the democracy of the people would not be fulfilled. Many of the elders who don't know how to speak that much English, listen to the radio and listen to the TV and they hear me speak Cree. Democracy is enhanced when they see that I speak in Cree and they can understand the processes of this legislature.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Goulet: — And as I was looking at that, I saw another aspect vis-à-vis the politic and the political history of this province.

As a Métis person, as a Cree Métis person, I was proud of my Métis heritage and my Cree heritage and you know being that my great-grandfather, . . . or my great great-uncle was part of the provisional government.

But not only that, later on . . . although I didn't pay that much attention, we had a lot of people . . . My mother and father were both CCFers (Co-operative Commonwealth Federation). You know I talked to my father later on. Of course, my mother died when I was 16. My father ended up seeing me become a minister and he was very, very proud of that.

And as I was, you know, looking at that history of the development . . . A lot of the values of being a social democrat, of being a CCFer, were therefore raised with me. It was therefore not a mystery even when I became, you know, an NDPer, you know, later on in life. And in that sense, it's a respect not only of the people and our language, it's a respect of your parents, your grandparents, and how they communicate.

And it is a very, very important point.

On The Métis Act itself, we passed it last year. . . the other year but we put it in officially last year, and I was very proud of that. I was a Métis person and we had, for the first time in this history, recognition. We had had program recognition before, but we had a recognition for the first time in history.

And it is something that I needed to say that the . . . when the PCs were in power, they tried to do away with it. But we . . . I was in opposition and I was asking questions. And the way that I asked the questions was such that I said, how could it be that you could support, for example, the different colleges at the university levels and not support the Métis institution? Through that type of questioning they came to accept the fact that Gabriel Dumont Institute could survive, and that was in a debate in 1987. But it's something that I'm very proud of.

The thing that I was not proud of in this legislature is that the Sask Party, all of them except for two, all of them voted against The Métis Act. Yes. I might even add that the member from North Battleford voted against The Métis Act on second reading and he never came into the House on third reading to vote for The Métis Act. So he's also on the record, the member from Battleford . . . the member from North Battleford, also is on the record on the second reading of voting against The Métis Act.

The members over here are talking about SIFC (Saskatchewan Indian Federated College). I'd like to make a comment on that. I just listened to some statements by the member from Weyburn vis-à-vis SIFC. Saskatchewan Indian Federated College is a world-class institution.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Goulet: — Saskatchewan Indian Federated College has over 1,500 students when they started with 20. They are doing all kinds of programming not only in . . . (inaudible) . . . to education but also into the sciences, development in the sciences research. And they have got one spectacular building. It is something to be proud of in this province. It is something to say yes, this is not only a monument to the great input of First Nations people in this province, but it is something to be proud of all across Canada. It is something that we can look back in our heritage and say yes, I was there to see it.

Now you look at something like that that's very positive. We used to provide about just over \$700,000 on program money for SIFC. We increased it by 800,000. And through the process of getting money from the federal government and from the private sector, they're able to build this tremendous building.

But the Sask Party, they try and throw mud on that. I just noticed the member of Weyburn and I will read some quotes from that. When I looked at the quotes that were written by Vice-Chief Lindsay Cyr, Chair of the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College Board of Governors, this is what it says on March 18:

The Chairman of the SIFC Board of Governors responds to statements made by the Opposition Saskatchewan Party accusing the Calvert government of having mixed up spending priorities when it comes to the Indian Federated

College. The Saskatchewan Party today criticized a \$1.2 million investment towards the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College.

I also look at the quote . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . I would like to see the quote the member wants me to tie it in very . . . (inaudible) . . . Mr. Speaker, and I will do that, Mr. Speaker. He says that the quote on CTV (Canadian Television Network Limited), 6 p.m., Tuesday, March 18, on the headline in there of SaskParty critical of SIFC Expenditure. This is what it says:

The Indian Gaming Authority and the province will finance the \$1.2 million (it says on the) teepee. The SaskParty says it's a waste of money, Brenda Bakken: (says) "When they originally put forward the plan (to put it in) . . . to put in the teepee they said they did not have the funds that it was too expensive . . . now all of a sudden we have \$200 thousand over the next six years, every year, to spend (on a TV) on a teepee. I think they've got their priorities very, very much mixed up." (is what she says)

I thought that that was highly insensitive. I thought it was totally insensitive.

That part of the building, it was there to honour the veterans. The veterans fought and died for this country. Many of them lay on the shores of Europe never to have come home. They liberated Europe, all over the place. Many of them died. They couldn't come back home to raise their own children.

These same veterans are the veterans that are going to be honoured on the new building which is exemplified through the original home of First Nations people — the teepee.

And she says, the priorities are wrong and that it's very mixed up. To me, I find that very, very, very disappointing, Mr. Speaker. Some members have said it's even offensive, Mr. Speaker. And I agree.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there are many aspects of the Throne Speech that I would like to talk about, you know, over the next while. But because of the timing, I wanted to talk about, a bit on the . . . (inaudible) . . . Education in the North now, SIFC, Gabriel Dumont Institute, we now have thousands of First Nations and Métis people involved. In the North alone, in the past 10 years, we've gone from 1,200 people to over 2,600 students in post-secondary in northern Saskatchewan.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Goulet: — We have seen a lot of the development in many, many areas. We've seen, and I've mentioned, you know, the green part of our plan. I've mentioned many, many things in regards to economic development. The health side, we will have a new northern planning system. Many, many things need to be done.

We as a government recognize we still have to move more in the question of openness. The question of inclusion on First Nations and Métis people are very important as part of our overall strategy in economic, social, and cultural development. And I really, really believe that the basis of where we've come, although we have a long ways to go, is a strong base. We are

leaders in Canada. First Nations and Métis people are leaders in institutional processes of self-government on many aspects in this country.

And as we move forward in this concept of openness, in this concept of inclusion, I predict that this new century we will see the diminishment, we will see the case of racism slowly going down. We have helped the concept of racism go down to a certain extent. I would like to see this new century where the hatred that we have seen in the Second War, that we see in many countries, becomes toned down and destroyed over time.

It has to be eliminated in time. The peaceful process is the way to do things. You cannot create war on people in economic terms, in social terms, or in military terms. People have to be working peacefully together as we face the future. And I really feel that it's a very important aspect of development.

(16:15)

And so with that, Mr. Speaker, I make my statements and I'd like to make the official statements of the motion both by myself and seconded by the member from Regina Wascana Plains:

That an humble address be presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor:

To Her Honour the Honourable Lynda M. Haverstock, Lieutenant Governor of the province of Saskatchewan.

May it please Your Honour:

We, Her Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Assembly of the province of Saskatchewan in session assembled, humbly thank Your Honour for the gracious speech which Your Honour has been pleased to address to us at the opening of the present session.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Hamilton: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. For my dear friend, the member from Cumberland whose motion I am proud to second, here's a bit of poetry which I think perfectly defines him and I quote:

Statesman, . . . friend (to) truth! of soul sincere,
In action faithful, and in honour clear!
Who broke no promise, serv'd no private end,
Who gain'd no title, and who lost no friend;

End of quote from Alexander Pope.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Hamilton: — It has been a pleasure and an education for me to serve with the member from Cumberland these past 12 years. And I know I speak for all members when I express our gratitude for his many years of public service — first, as an educator; secondly, as an elected member of this Assembly, a member of Cabinet; and as eloquent a spokesman for the North and its people as we are likely to find. A man truly who served no private end and who lost no friend.

I regret that he has announced his retirement, but he has dearly earned the time to pursue other endeavours, and also to be with family and friends.

Being given the honour to second the Lieutenant Governor's eloquent address, I enjoyed taking a moment to review some of the remarks made by members during past Throne Speech debates. I've always looked forward to varying views expressed on both sides of the Assembly and the snapshots of the ridings across the province. This session, I anticipate hearing from our two newest members.

An opening remark from the former member from Lloydminster struck me as appropriate for today, Mr. Speaker, and appropriate to the speech by the member from Cumberland. Vi Stanger said in 1993 that she found it significant and humbling to be a part of a legislature that in its makeup was breaking down the old traditional barriers to public life — gender barriers, racial, and religious ones. She was referring primarily to the fact that for the first time there were a number of women MLAs elected, but the comment applies to the other categories as well.

Admittedly, we have a long way to go before we do achieve a more fair degree of racial and gender equality in our representation. But as the member from Cumberland said, he's seen the number of First Nations MLAs increase by 100 per cent in his time. If the next members from Cumberland and Athabasca and others can do the same, we'll be well on our way.

Even now we can say that we are no longer just a male, white, Anglo-Saxon, protestant bastion, and I believe our decision making is the better for it.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Hamilton: — And as I make my customary and deserved nod to you, Mr. Speaker, and to your wise and tolerant guidance of this House, with the able assistance of the Clerks at the Table, it's worth pointing out that even a few years ago, you yourself would not have been in the Chair because of your Ukrainian heritage — what we would have lost. What the school children of Saskatchewan would be missing in the work you do between sessions to teach them and others about our democratic British parliamentary system.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to give a welcome to the new pages. I'm sure that they will be run off their feet. But I know that they are going to learn much and have fun too — or at least I hope so.

One more thing before I begin, Mr. Speaker, I welcome all members back to our place of doing business and I look forward to working with each of them. In particular I want to welcome the new members from Battleford-Cut Knife and Saskatoon Fairview. Both won hard-fought by-elections and both, I'm sure, will represent all of their constituents.

But, Mr. Speaker, I'm hoping the member from Battleford knows, and is not too surprised to learn, that his party and his leader will not be supporting his campaign for government investment in the worthwhile project of a geothermal spa for his

community. Or maybe they will because there will be some measures for friends and others for the rest of us.

The member from Cumberland spoke eloquently of his constituency. Mine is a bit smaller geographically but I'm equally proud of the people of Wascana Plains. In 1991 my constituency was totally urban and encompassed much of the area I served as a city councillor. The major issues of the day were government debt and lack of funding to urban centres as well as to education.

By 1995 the southeast of Regina had grown and boundary redistribution made this one of the first four urban/rural seats in the province. Over the years I have had a wonderful opportunity to get to know families in the centres of and around Zehner, Pilot Butte, Balgonie, White City, Emerald Park, Richardson, and Rowatt.

With the changes made in the December session, I'm becoming nostalgic about the many friends I've made in Balgonie and the surrounding farm land. They've provided me warm hospitality at fowl suppers, dinner theatres, pancake breakfasts, winter carnivals, and that list goes on. I will be, in the future, there for good visits but will no longer represent them in the Assembly after the next election.

To the mayors and council members, the school board officials, the wildlife association members, and all the communities, thank you for supporting me and challenging me. I do however, with this boundary distribution, gain an area north of Zehner to the scenic Qu'Appelle Valley, including the First Nations community of Piapot. You saw and heard yesterday from the talented young men from the Piapot as the Dakota Cree drummers played for all of us in the rotunda. Congratulations to all of them and to their driver, Sylvia Obey, who's also a mother, aunt, and grandmother to some of the band members. They told me they travel extensively. This Easter, they're going to Kenora and a week later to Missoula, Montana. So I give them all best wishes and hopes for safe travel.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Hamilton: — It is my hope today that my speech will reflect the issues important to all of the constituency of Wascana Plains. Almost five years ago to the day, I was given the privilege of moving the Speech from the Throne. I began by saying, and I quote:

Since we last met on December 19, Christmas has come and gone, and in the spirit of peace and goodwill which . . . (the) season calls forth, the world has just avoided a return to armed insanity in the . . . (Middle East) — thanks, in no small part, to the world at work through co-operation, the United Nations.

I use this again for two reasons. First, once again world stability is being threatened by a potential and deadly conflict in the same part of the world with different contestants this time, but once again the world faces the dilemma of choosing peace over war with no clear way of achieving it other than trusting the world's nations will co-operate through the guidance of our international instrument, the United Nations. The United Nations may be imperfect, but it is far better than the

alternative.

Here we are, a provincial body with the affairs of Saskatchewan people our immediate concern, but we are also citizens of the world and cannot but be affected by the consequences of what may occur. We pray for peace; we fear the opposite. We can take some comfort, I believe, in the fact that the world now has two superpowers: the United States of America; but also the world of public opinion overwhelmingly in favour of peace. In these next few hours, we hope and pray that these voices of peace and reason prevail.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Hamilton: — Secondly, as I said our concern in this Assembly is with the business with our beautiful province as we begin the fourth session of the twenty-fourth legislature. The citizens of this province expect us to conduct their business with decorum and thoroughness, as is their right. Especially during this time of world crisis, they expect us not to add to the divisiveness and conflict we see daily in our headlines. And as the old Sunday school song goes — which comes back to my Broadway United Church background — they expect you, Mr. Speaker, in your small corner and I in mine, to let our lights shine and do what we can to provide a measure of stability.

Frankly, I think we're up to it. This government is committed to it. We can live up to that commitment because as Her Honour said yesterday: we have a vision, we have a plan. We have a vision; we're ready to work hard, and dream big; and we have a plan.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Hamilton: — That plan is working because the vision is both practical and clear.

Mr. Speaker, there are many aspects to our plan, as outlined in the Throne Speech, and each of us will want to highlight those closest to our own constituents and our own interests and heart. I want to emphasize a few.

First I want to say a word about something people of Wascana Plains care deeply about — open, accountable, democratic government. What better way to illustrate our commitment to democratic, fair representation than to mention the two by-elections held two days ago and the new members who have taken their seats today immediately after being elected.

Both elections were held well within the six-month timeframe legislated a few years ago. Legislated — in the phrase that some opposition members love to use, and we love to hear it by the way — by this NDP government.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Hamilton: — You bet it was an NDP government who said all people will be represented. It wasn't the Sask Party's first cousins, the Tories, and it wasn't the Liberals before them. It was Grant Devine's government — I mean the other Grant, Mr. Speaker — who did allow seats to remain vacant in this Assembly for nearly two years.

It was this NDP government that said every voter in Saskatchewan will have equal representation and that constituency boundaries will be drawn fairly and impartially after each federal census. Wherever you live in Saskatchewan, your vote counts.

It wasn't that long ago, Mr. Speaker, when some constituencies had 17,000 voters and others had 4,500. The Sask-a-Tories didn't fix that inequity, this NDP government did.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, let's just take a moment to look at the phrase the opposition believes is a negative — this NDP government. That stands for New Democratic Party. Democratic — one person, one vote — in our party dealings and in our government mandate. And, Mr. Speaker, I kind of like the sound of the phrase myself so I'll try it one more time — our New Democratic government. That's our vision of a democratic society and we carried out a plan to fulfill that vision.

(16:30)

What's the alternative plan? What's the Sask-a-Tory vision of democracy? Well, Mr. Speaker, it's to say one thing and do another. The SPer (Saskatchewan Party) vision is to use the term, grassroot democracy, in every other sentence, and to promise free votes in the legislature. The Sask-a-Tory plan is to quash the first signs of independent thinking by the members of those grassroots. I wonder if the people of Melville-Saltcoats believe they were treated democratically.

We believe in and practise democratic principles. The Sask Party has a slogan, an anti-slogan, and then betrays it at the first opportunity.

Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, I am proud to see in this Throne Speech the announcement of rule changes in this Assembly that will provide increased public input into the legislative process — a vision and a plan that works. Compare that to a slogan and immediate betrayal.

Mr. Speaker, as we prepare to celebrate our first centennial, we are looking back with pride and awe at our pioneers and what they did to prepare the way for us. We'll be showing our gratitude to them by presenting a vision of the future, a vision of the next 100 years, a vision that fulfills their dream of a stable society and an expanding economy not susceptible to the ups and downs, the booms and busts, of an economy at the mercy of weather and the world markets.

The pioneers worked hard. They prayed and persevered and built for the future through their co-ops, their community institutions, their schools, their churches, their Pools, and their political parties. They dreamed of an economy diversified enough to withstand the forces arrayed against them. We are in a process of fulfilling those dreams because we have a plan, and a plan that is working.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Hamilton: — The Lieutenant Governor's speech reminded us of how strong our economy is today despite two years of drought. She mentioned the 10 consecutive months of

employment growth, of increased retail sales and business incorporations, of higher youth employment, and more.

But, Mr. Speaker, she's not the only one optimistic about our economic progress. Let's take a quick look at some of the ever-vigilant members of our provincial press and what they're saying about our economy, just to test the validity of Her Honour's address.

The *Leader-Post* of February 5, headline: "Provincial Outlook," "Economy's looking good." Here's another from the oil patch in *Kindersley Clarion*: "Local oil industry looks good to Alberta-based company." So unlike the members opposite and their adoration of Alberta, this story has it right.

Let's go down south to the member from Cannington's constituency, from the *Redvers* paper, a headline on January 13: "Saskatchewan, a great place to work, live, and invest."

Back to *Kindersley* on January 8: "Local merchants mostly optimistic about 2003." And to the east and the *MinerJournal* in *Esterhazy*, January 20: "Business owners confident."

And for our sister city, Saskatoon, The Conference Board of Canada predicts that it will rank second in economic growth among all Canadian cities in 2003.

Mr. Speaker, I could read headlines like that all day. But the message is clear. Something good is happening here. Our future is wide open. And only the Saskatchewan Party remains negative about our province and this good economic news.

In Saskatchewan our government has always used a multi-faceted approach to economic development that involves a combination of private industry and business; the public sector through its Crowns, co-operatives; and of course strategic investments. We still depend on this mix and it still works, as the newspaper headlines that I quoted have outlined and indicated to us today.

We have a plan — a plan that includes ethanol, manufacturing, mining, forestry, tourism, culture, information technology, and value-added agriculture to go along with our traditional primary industries of oil, gas, and agriculture.

Compare that with the Sask-a-Tory plan that says only one thing for economic growth — tax cuts for corporations and big business. I've heard a nation to the south of us use the trickle-down approach to the economy, Mr. Speaker. It didn't work there; it won't work here.

And, oh, Mr. Speaker, I forgot. This great economic plan depends on, as the Leader of the Opposition stated, if the weather co-operates and the federal government gives them more money. A fair-weather plan if I ever heard one.

The Speech from the Throne documents how the government's plan is successfully opening the doors to a Wide Open Future. Our integrated plan is working, achieving economic growth and diversification. Most importantly, it is balanced and it's sustainable — a plan that supports small and medium businesses; a plan that encourages development in our major industries; and a plan that creates new jobs and opportunities

for Saskatchewan young people and all Saskatchewan people.

I'd like to now mention two important aspects of our plan. This New Democratic government recognizes the worth and value of Saskatchewan workers. We support the rights of workers to organize, to bargain, and to form associations for their benefit and their protection.

From the first days of the Douglas government we have supported the rights of workers with trail-blazing legislation like the first Trade Union Act in Canada, occupational health and safety legislation, and so on.

I was very happy last month to take part in the 90th anniversary celebration of the SGEU (Saskatchewan Government and General Employees' Union). Beginning as a social and athletic association, this union of government employees has grown over the years into an effective bargaining unit and advocate for the welfare of its members. It is a leader in creating and suggesting progressive workplace environments and progressive changes. And even though the government is its employer, we are proud to work with this particular union because without its members, government and all its services would come to a halt.

The same can be said for our non-unionized civil service, those members who serve at the pleasure of Her Majesty. Mr. Speaker, in some quarters across, it would be fashionable these days to criticize civil servants and to make false assumptions based on bad jokes. That criticism does not come from here. We know that no vision is workable, no plan can be implemented without the loyal, intelligent execution of a dedicated public service.

Mr. Speaker, our plan recognizes the value of workers and workers' organizations. The Sask Party has also recognized these organizations. They've called them job killers, they've called them skunks, and would tell us to remember what those skunks did to the Devine government, the government they're now refusing to acknowledge. An opposition speaking from both sides of its mouth, Mr. Speaker.

Another part of our plan to expand the economy has to do with fair taxation. Mr. Speaker, the Sask Tories have one mantra which they repeat over and over about how they would increase the economy. They would say lower taxes, lower corporate taxes. Their own economist says their numbers don't add up.

Compare that plan to our plan. Mr. Speaker, since our first budget in May of 1992, this New Democratic Party government has reduced taxes in every single budget — every one. And remember, we began by having to dig our people out of the worst financial hole that was left to us by a provincial government that doesn't look much different than the members opposite today.

Nevertheless, in each budget we have targeted specific, sensible, sustainable reductions in taxes in order to reduce taxes on individuals or to boost certain areas of our economy. These tax reductions were made only when we were able to support them, and as I said, Mr. Speaker, sensible and sustainable.

I have a document here that lists 10 pages, single spaced, of

revenue measures that improve the fairness and competitiveness of our tax regime, while enabling us to maintain a sustainable fiscal balance. And I'd love to read those whole 10 pages, Mr. Speaker, but just for the record, here's a few.

In 1992 we increased the child tax reduction for low-income families by 25 per cent. In 1992, '93, and '94 we reduced small business corporation taxes from 10 to 8 per cent. In 1995 — the year of our first eight consecutive balanced budgets — we eliminated the deficit surtax for low-income earners and reduced it substantially for others.

We've reduced the PST (provincial sales tax) to 6 per cent, the lowest of any province that has a provincial sales tax.

We have reduced taxes for families every year since 1995. In 1998 we introduced the first film tax . . . film employment tax credit and we changed the oil and gas royalty production tax structures, both which have encouraged those two industries to expand and grow in this province.

Mr. Speaker, a rough tally says that there have been 72 — 72 — separate tax reductions, great and small, sustainable and here for the long term. And as the Premier says, we can now turn our attention to a review of the education portion of property taxes.

I know the Sask Party has had very little new to tell the people of Saskatchewan about tax cuts. One mantra, one empty slogan, no plan.

For us, a plan with each of the 72 or so measures that were introduced, not in isolation but as a part of a larger plan to protect families and to promote the economy. We did them when we could afford them and they've paid off.

And as the impartial analysis of international credit rating agencies attest . . . And there's just one quote, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to share from Dominion Bond Rating Services. It says, and I quote:

The province's approach to fiscal planning has not only strengthened its financial profile but it has contributed to the improvement in Saskatchewan economic fundamentals.

A clear vision, a workable plan.

The judicious application of targeted tax measures, the partnership with working people, encouragement of industry through improvements of provincial infrastructure, the encouragement of our small-business sector, the active participation of our Crown corporations — all of these are part of our plan to fulfill our vision of an expanding economy from which no one is excluded. We have a plan to expand the Saskatchewan economy.

The members opposite, the old Sask Tories, here's their slogan . . . It's a slogan that Doug Elliott of *Sask trends monitor* has said that the Sask Party's wish to increase our population by 100,000 people in 10 years is, quote: "more wishful thinking than statistically obtainable."

Their numbers don't add up, Mr. Speaker. They have a slogan. We have a plan.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Hamilton: — Mr. Speaker, one can guess that a word or two might be exchanged this session about the role of the Crown corporations in our economy. I'd expect that will be so. And one can be sure that more evidence will be present that proves the value of the crucial place of our Crowns in our political and our social life. And the more that happens, the more negatives the opposition will dredge up. You might even say there's an election issue here.

The other day I read a clip from the member from Arm River who said that every Crown will be up for review and you needn't think that any of those Crowns will be safe from the privatization by the members opposite.

(16:45)

For the moment, Mr. Speaker, let me content myself with just a few fundamental facts about our Crowns. The Crowns that we believe in provide services to all communities in this province. Our Crowns provide safe, reliable services in all parts of Saskatchewan and at the lowest overall rates in Canada — bar none. They don't cherry-pick the profitable areas in the cities. We have the lowest rates of automobile insurance, the third lowest rate of natural gas, and competitive rates for telephones and power. And by the way, Mr. Speaker, we have low power rates despite the absence of cheap hydro and without a nuclear waste dump the member from Thunder Creek would propose to build in Saskatchewan.

I also have to note that the deregulation and privatizations of Crowns in Alberta, in Ontario, what's happening in California is a disaster. We're talking about increases in rates, we're talking about brownouts and blackouts. Not here in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. Our Crowns employ more than 9,000 people who put more than half a billion dollars a year of income back into our economy. Crowns support thousands of Saskatchewan businesses through \$2 billion every year in local purchasing and system improvements. All Crowns have buy-Saskatchewan policies.

During the past 10 years our Crown sector has returned \$1.6 billion in dividends to the people of Saskatchewan, dividends that would otherwise leave this province should the Sask Party get their wish to privatize our Crowns.

And as Her Honour said, this year the Crowns will invest \$650 million in Saskatchewan to extend and to renew utility infrastructure in our province. More jobs for Saskatchewan people. Those are the facts.

But what the Sask Party never talks about is how important the Crowns are socially and culturally to the communities that they live in and the communities that they serve — the communities of rural Saskatchewan.

SaskEnergy, as we know, collects and distributes thousands of warm coats and sweaters every year to donate to those who are in need. In January I was proud to be a part of the SaskPower Tournament of Hearts women's curling championship held in Balgonie in my constituency. That community was behind that event and would tell everyone how they benefited from being

profiled by a SaskPower-sponsored tournament.

SGI (Saskatchewan Government Insurance) and SaskTel pioneers work closely with MADD (Mothers Against Drinking Drivers) and SADD (Students Against Drinking and Driving) to promote responsible driving and to save lives.

Mr. Speaker, the list of community involvement of our Crowns is as long as the Minister of Health's arm and that's a long arm. Our utilities work with Saskatchewan communities because their employees are Saskatchewan people.

Our vision of Saskatchewan has a place for Crown corporations. Sask-a-Tories have a slogan straight from their brothers and sisters in the Saskatchewan Taxpayers Federation and The Fraser Institute. Their slogan: sell the Crowns and let's deregulate. That's the rule of the day.

Well tell that to the people of Alberta who, yesterday's paper said, will be paying upwards of 60 per cent more for their power thanks to deregulation — 60 per cent more. Tell that to your communities in rural Saskatchewan when you deregulate . . .

The Speaker: — Order. Order. I would just remind the member that as she continues her remarks, to make all of her remarks through the Chair.

Ms. Hamilton: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, it's hard not to get a little emotional about a wonderful Throne Speech.

It's interesting to note, Mr. Speaker, that in the last two sessions there have been no particular questions about highways from the opposition. Why? Because we are fixing the roads; because we've embarked on a four year, billion dollar commitment to repair and upgrade provincial roadways and highways; and because, finally, we convinced the federal government for some small portion of their fuel tax — 10 per cent — to be here in Saskatchewan to twin our two major Trans-Canada Highways. So it's the \$82 million towards those projects that will be matched by the federal government. Saskatchewan spends much more on highways than it collects on the fuel tax.

Mr. Speaker, there's no doubt that our first priority — and it's been ever thus — will be the health care system that responds to our medical needs. And because we have a health system that is the envy of the world and because it's for every citizen . . . But it's because this also means medicare is forever stretched to its limits in its provision of services.

Each year, for instance, in our province of a million people, there are 90,000 surgeries that are performed. So we know that people who need services get them. The provision of quality health care though is ever challenging and ever changing.

We have a province that gave a gift to Canada in medicare and we're ahead of the pack today. We outlined an action plan for Saskatchewan health care, and as the Speech from the Throne said, we're moving ahead in implementing this plan. We act responsibly and we have a plan to make it work.

Now, put that in position to the Tory plan of freezing health-care spending for five years while they conduct some

kind of an audit. I say that's an American-style privatization plan and it's no plan for Saskatchewan — but it's no vision for Saskatchewan.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Hamilton: — We provide in our Throne Speech for highways, for health care, for community services to address the needs of those who would live in poverty in our communities. And these three areas have greatly improved under this New Democratic government.

But, Mr. Speaker, there are three areas that I would also like to highlight from this Throne Speech — education, the Premier's voluntary sector initiative, and the environment. There is an old saying, Mr. Speaker, we do not inherit the environment from our ancestors but we borrow it from our children. And I think that statement is absolutely true. And that is why I am pleased to be a part of this New Democrat government that clearly takes its responsibilities of the environment seriously because it belongs not to us, but to our children.

Mr. Speaker, it was the CCF Douglas government in 1946 that introduced the first forest management plan — in 1946. And that was the first program in Canada. If not for that vision, you could have seen that we would have barren rocks in northern Saskatchewan today without that plan.

Environmental issues such as climate change are universally recognized as a major concern for the health of this planet. Last session the members opposite had one agenda — one agenda item — and that was to vote against the Kyoto accord. Mr. Speaker, that's no plan and that's no vision for this province.

Years ago, the great Chief Seattle said the following:

Man did not weave the web of life — he is merely a strand in it.

Whatever he does to that web, he does to himself.

We know that we have a deep responsibility to this fragile earth, our island home. We have a plan.

This year I've been privileged to serve with the member of Saskatoon Idylwyld and the member of Cumberland in the Premier's Voluntary Sector Initiative. As Chair of the initiative, I want to publicly thank all the members of the joint steering committee, both the public representatives and the government employees, who already in their lives are responsible for an amazing inventory of work.

I am humbled to work with this group that has such an impact on the quality of life in Saskatchewan. I am proud that I will be a part of a government whose Premier said that we will now be acting on the initiative's recommendations in the days ahead.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Hamilton: — Finally, Mr. Speaker, as we move into our second century, I'm delighted that it's this NDP's government vision for education and training and its workable and practical imaginative plan to prepare our students to fulfill their potential both in the workplace and communities that will lead us into the

next century.

We need, in short, for all of our educational institutions to work together with us to ensure children's education needs are met and that their adult education training will be there to help them to provide suitable jobs for their society. I think this Throne Speech fits the bill, Mr. Speaker.

It's been a pleasure to speak to the people of Saskatchewan about what we've accomplished through our vision, our planning, and our hard work. It's their vision, and their planning, and their hard work that have gotten us started.

And I want to close with one more comment that is prompted by a quote I read recently from American author Kurt Vonnegut in his book *Time Quake*. He said the following:

My uncle Alex Vonnegut taught me something very important. He said that when things . . . (were really going) well we should be sure to *notice* it. He was talking about simple occasions, not great victories: maybe drinking lemonade on a hot afternoon in the shade, or smelling the aroma of a nearby bakery, or fishing and not caring if we catch anything (or not), or hearing somebody all alone playing a piano really well in the house next door. Uncle Alex urged me to say this out loud during such epiphanies: 'If this isn't nice, what is?'

Mr. Speaker, according to Kurt Vonnegut and his uncle Alex, from the Throne Speech to serving in this government — if this isn't nice, what is?

I am truly proud to be a part of a government that's future is wide open and to second the Throne from the Speech . . . the Speech from the Throne, Mr. Speaker, moved by the member from Cumberland.

Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Debate continues on the Throne Speech. I recognize . . . Why is the . . .

Hon. Mr. Lautermilch: — It being near 5 o'clock, I move this House do now adjourn.

The Assembly adjourned at 16:58.

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